Saipan-bound Delta flight cancelled after emergency landing. » PAGE 2

Lower than normal rainfall recorded on Saipan, other islands. » PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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75¢

Jury finds Ogumoro guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Conviction closes sad chapter in CNMI history

A Superior Court jury rendered on Friday a unanimous verdict finding former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro guilty of two corruption charges for his role in the shielding of then-Attorney General Edward Buckingham from being served with penal summons in August 2012.

See JURY on Page 4

Ogumoro

Blanco-Maratita sacked, after board is stacked against her

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission voted last Tuesday to dismiss executive director Lucy Blanco-Maratita and terminate her employment contract on the same day, with a vote of 4 to 1 in favor of her removal.

Blanco-Maratita

The move comes over a month after Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman disagreed with the commission's position that a commissioner's term runs from the date of his or her confirmation, as opposed to staggered fix-date terms. The ruling meant that Tinian Mayor Joey San Nicolas' position in June that several members of the commission "would cease to set on the commission and shall not be included

See SACKED on Page 4

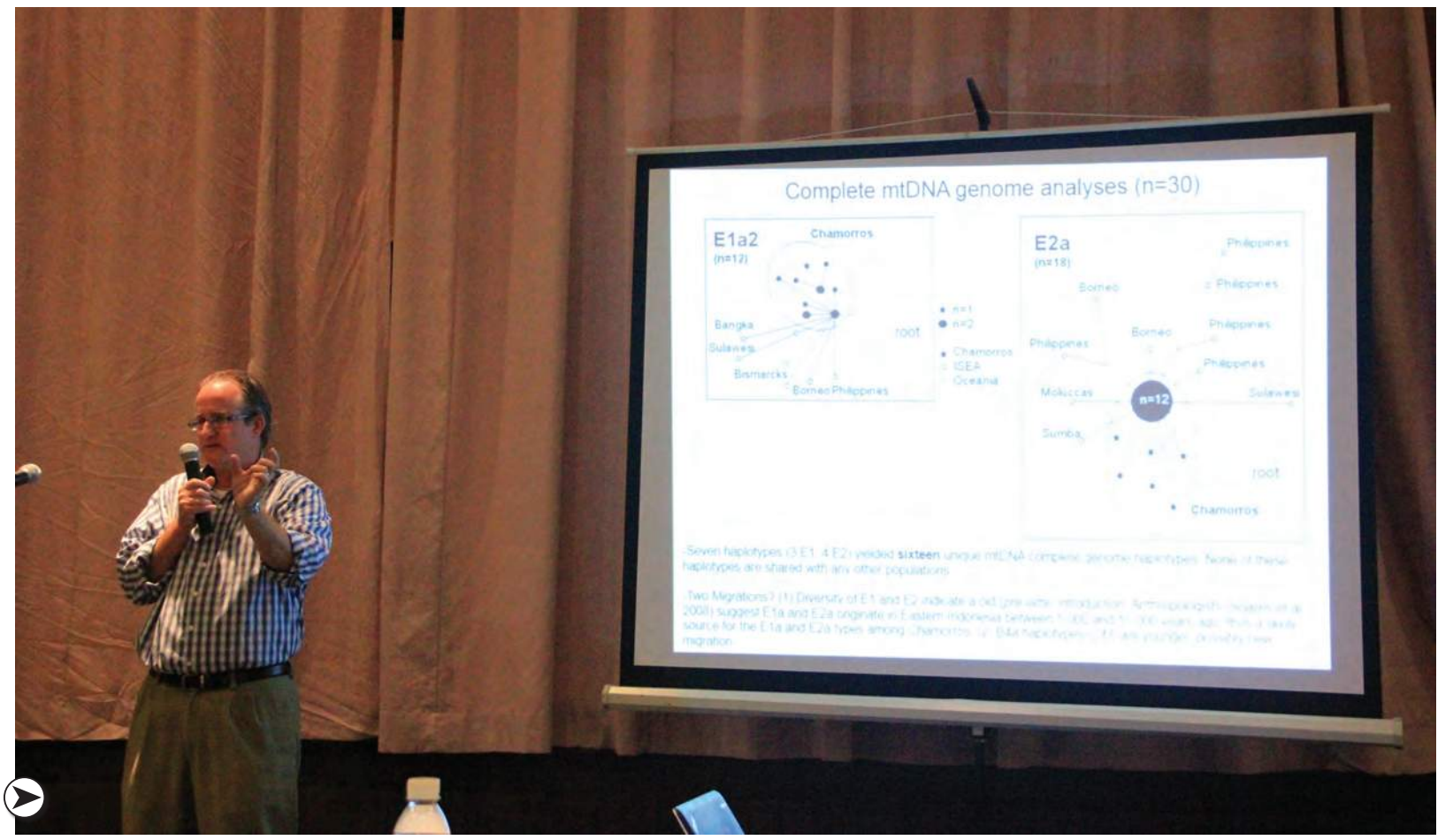
Expert: Chamorros originated from Southeast Asia

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Molecular anthropologist Dr. Miguel Vilar's recent studies on the origin of the ancient Chamorro people revealed that they originated from parts of Southeast Asia, particularly in Indonesia and the Philippines.

Vilar, National Geographic Society's project manager for the Genographic project, was on Saipan for a one-night lecture on "Researching

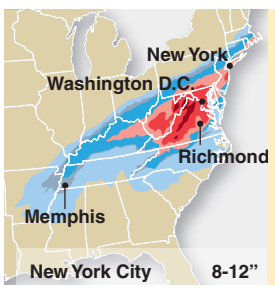
See CHAMORROS on Page 4



JON PEREZ

National Geographic Scientific Data Manager Dr. Miguel G. Vilar, PhD, explains to the crowd results of his research on the origin of the Chamorro people in last Saturday's presentation organized by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council at the Fiesta Hall of the Grandvrio Resort.

INSIDE



NATION

A blizzard with hurricane-force winds brought much of the East Coast to a standstill Saturday.

» PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE

Matt Damon says the movie business has "a long, long, long way to go" when it comes to diversity.

» PAGE 21

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Local

Saipan-bound Delta flight cancelled after emergency landing

A Delta Airline flight bound for Saipan was cancelled last Saturday following a need to emergency land, news reports say.

In an article by Agence France Presse-Jiji published in several news sites including *Japan Times*, a Delta plane made an emergency landing shortly after taking flight.

"A Delta passenger jet bound for Saipan made an emergency landing at Narita International Airport in Chiba Prefecture on Saturday," the report said.

The report added that an airport official said that smoke was "detected" in the cabin and the Boeing 757-200 with 97 crew and passengers on board was forced to return to the said airport near Tokyo.

No one was injured due to the incident.

The airport temporarily closed when the plane returned, and all the crew and passengers evacuated safely, the report said.

"Delta is investigating the incident," the report added.

Saipan Tribune contacted Delta Airlines but was unable to get a response as of press time.

Delta.com lists Narita-Saipan flight DL 0298 that was supposed to arrive at 3:10pm on Saturday as cancelled. Saipan-Narita flight DL 0297 was also cancelled that day.

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director MaryAnn Lizama confirmed that a Delta flight was cancelled last Saturday adding, however, that she did not know about an emergency landing. ***(Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)***

Gun pointing charges vs ex-lawmaker's son dismissed

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Friday dismissed the case against a man accused of pointing a handgun at two men he accused of beating up his father, former lawmaker Christopher Leon Guerrero, at a poker establishment in Garapan.

Camacho dismissed without prejudice the amended information charging Hermanny Palacios Santos with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, upon the Office of the Attorney General's request.

Dismiss without prejudice means the government may re-file the case in the future.

Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub moved to dismiss the case. She did not elaborate.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer, counsel for Santos, did not object to the government's motion.

Police said the two alleged victims stated they assisted Leon Guerrero, who vomited and blacked out after playing poker, but his son, Santos, 38, instead accused them of beating up his father.

Santos was arrested last Dec. 6.

According to police detective Myron O. Laniyo, Peter Cabrera Camacho and Froilan Mendiola Camacho called for police assistance at 99 Cents Supermarket in Garapan last Dec. 6 at 5:13am.

Peter Camacho told police that he and Froilan Camacho were at the U-Luck Poker in Garapan last Dec. 4 where they saw Leon Guerrero whom they knew as "Superman" playing poker since 6pm that day.

Leon Guerrero is a former House representative and a retired police officer.

Every time Leon Guerrero would withdraw his money from the poker machine, he would give Peter and Froilan Camacho some money.

At 3am Leon Guerrero got up and was walking out when he started vomiting.

Leon Guerrero blacked out and fell forward, hitting his head on the flowerbed, according to Peter and Froilan Camacho.

Peter and Froilan Camacho helped Leon Guerrero and called for an ambulance. Leon Guerrero was then transported to the hospital.

Peter Camacho stated that on Sunday at 5am, he and Froilan Camacho were driving past Miha housing #M-16 when they saw Santos' vehicle at the area.

The two decided to stop by, met Santos and asked him how his father, Leon Guerrero, was doing.

Santos went over to the passenger side of the vehicle, where Peter Camacho was sitting and allegedly pointed the gun at his head.

Santos was cussing and accusing the Camachos of beating up his father.

Peter Camacho told Santos he had it all wrong because they never beat up Leon Guerrero and instead were helping the latter and even carried him into an ambulance.

Santos walked over to the driver's side, where he opened the door and allegedly also pointed the gun at Froilan Camacho.

Froilan Camacho said after they convinced him to review the surveillance camera, Santos got up on his vehicle.

Peter and Froilan Camacho later drove to 99 Cents Supermarket in Garapan, where they called for police assistance.

Police officers checked the back of the defendant's house, where they recovered a .32 revolver handgun with three bullets in the cylinder. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Lower than normal rainfall recorded on Saipan, other islands

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

A drought statement has been issued for the Marianas by the National Weather Service as rainfall in the islands has been well below normal and will continue to be so in the next several months.

On Saipan, NWS said rainfall has been lower than normal the last couple of days.

NWS released the expanded drought statement last Thursday, saying that experimental drought assessments of the U.S. Drought Monitor indicate that many locations across Micronesia are entering a period of moderate to severe drought.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, NWS Forecast Office Guam warning coordination meteorologist Chip Guard said that we are entering the second phase of the current El Nino.

"The drought pattern is setting up. El Nino has two phases, it has the wet phase which was all the typhoon activity we had and it has the dry phase and now we're entering the dry phase. That could last in the CNMI until August," Guard said.

After the mature phase of a strong El —the current event being considered as one of strongest El Ninos in history—increasingly dry conditions usually develop across Micronesia.

As such, drought is already affecting islands of the Republic of Palau and Yap State. In the coming months, drought is expected to develop for the Mariana Islands and parts of Chuuk State, NWS said.

Low rainfall

Despite some rains that were experienced in Saipan the last few days, Guard said these are not enough.

"You're still getting some rain but not as much as you normally get," Guard said, "It's not raining as often, it's not raining as hard, it's not raining as long."

In Saipan, 4.03 inches of rain was recorded last December, which was only a little lower than normal. However, this month, the island has received only about 50 percent so far of the rain that it usually gets.

NWS recorded from Jan. 1 to Jan. 20 only 1.13 inches of rain, far from the normal 2.47 inches.

According to NWS, computer models indicate that a quarter inch or less of rain will fall through the next 10 days for most areas of the Commonwealth.

"Longer range models indi-

See LOWER on Page 4

New animal shelter to be built in Lower Base

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan Mayor's Office special assistant Henry Hofschneider said a new animal shelter facility would be built in Lower Base after the original was damaged by Typhoon Soudelor in August last year.

The Saipan Mayor's Office animal shelter was heavily damaged when Soudelor ripped through the island with the facility's tin roof, windows, and part of the walls torn apart like paper by the typhoon's tornado-like winds.

"It is like building a new one. We're going to build from the ground up and put the facility back to where it was before. Better and stronger materials will be used," said Hofschneider, who added that they are set to receive public assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"We submitted a public assistance application to FEMA and they approved it on Dec. 18, 2015. That's why we want to get the project going."

Hofschneider added that they are also hoping construction of the animal shelter would only take three months since dogs housed at the Lower Base facility are already getting sick.

Volunteers from the Saipan Cares for Animals have been taking care of the dogs and several cats, which were either caught by the Saipan Mayor's Animal Control Office. Most of the animals are getting sick since they are getting wet when it rains.

The Saipan Mayor's Office is now waiting for the Department of Public Works to finish developing the scope of work, drawings, and plans for the new facility in order for the project to move forward with the bidding process.

"DPW is doing the drawing and the specifications that would comply with the electrical and building codes. Hope all necessary documents needed to start with the bidding process would be completed for the project to get going," Hofschneider said.

FEMA has awarded $300,000 for the repair of the animal shelter, which is near the estimate that the Saipan Mayor's Office submitted when they applied for the public assistance program.

The Saipan Mayor's Office will also be receiving more than $355,000 from FEMA as reimbursement for what they spent in removing typhoon-related debris in the villages. The CNMI central government would release FEMA's monetary aid.

"As much as possible we want the project to go in the bidding process so construction could start once a winning contractor is awarded the project. We're hoping it would only take two months to finish the animal shelter and not more than three months. Some of the materials will be shipped."

Volunteers and staff of the Animal Control Office have also been busy assisting veterinarians Dr. Jennifer Landis and technician Bambi Leone with the Mayor's Office's spay and neuter program since Jan. 4. The program ends on Feb. 4.

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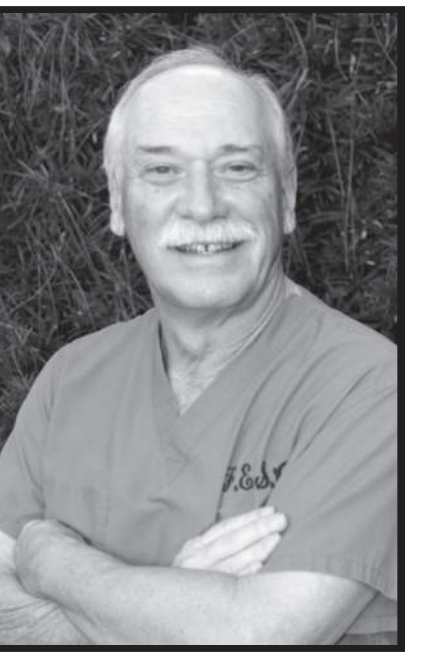

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NBG emergency teams respond to bomb threat at Guam High School

SANTA RITA, Guam— U.S. Naval Base Guam Security, Military Working Dogs and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Teams were dispatched immediately to the scene after the Regional Dispatch Center notified NBG of a bomb threat at approximately 10am Friday at the Department of Defense Education Activity High School—Guam High School—located on the Naval Hospital Guam compound.

Children and teachers were evacuated from the school and relocated a safe distance away. The explosive-detection dogs were able to conduct a thorough internal and external sweep of the school, with negative results of a bomb. The "all clear" was provided on scene at approximately 11:30am, but children were delayed momentarily outside the school for safety concerns before being let back into the building.

The threat was determined to be a hand-written note found in the girl's bathroom. ***(PR)***

JURY

From Page 1

After deliberating for less than three hours, the six jurors reached the guilty verdict as to the charges of conspiracy to commit theft of services and theft of services.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman said he will announce at 10:30am tomorrow, Jan. 26, his verdict as to the nine other remaining charges against Ogumoro.

Wiseman will also announce the sentencing date on Tuesday.

Wiseman will decide the nine remaining charges: six counts of misconduct in public office, one count of conspiracy to commit obstructing justice: Interference with a law enforcement officer or witness, obstructing justice: interference with a law enforcement officer or witness, and criminal coercion.

Ogumoro remained calm when a court staff read the verdict at 3:35pm. His family members, supporters, and friends were silent when the verdict was announced.

Saipan Tribune tried to get comments from Ogumoro about the verdict, but he did not say anything as he quickly walked outside the Judicial Complex in Susupe.

Attorney Edward C. Arriola, counsel for Ogumoro, also refused to comment.

Special prosecutor George Hasselback, counsel for the government, in an interview said the maximum penalty of two counts is up to five years in prison.

Hasselback said the jurors returned a proper verdict.

"I think today was a good day," Hasselback said. OPA legal counsel Ashley Kost assisted Hasselback in the trial.

At the closing arguments on Friday morning, Hasselback discussed several text messages and phone calls between Ogumoro, former governor Benigno R. Fitial, Buckingham, several DPS police officers, Commonwealth Ports Authority officials, and a government lawyer between Aug. 3 and 4, 2012.

Hasselback said the witnesses that they presented testified about what the text messages and the phone calls were all about—they were talking about police escort, shielding Buckingham from being served with penal summons.

Hasselback said they believe that they have proven beyond reasonable doubt that a group of people was conspiring to commit crimes.

"Mr. Ogumoro is right in the middle. As I told you before in my opening statements, he made it happen," the special prosecutor said.

Hasselback said the biggest overt act of them all was when Ogumoro was telling FBI special agent Haejun Park that he was under an executive order.

Hasselback said the breaking piece of testimony was when Office of the Public Auditor then-investigator Juanette David-Atalig stated she was shocked upon being informed by a police officer that Ogumoro threatened to arrest her and OPA investigator Juan Santos if they would not cease trying to serve the penal summons to Buckingham.

In the defense's closing arguments, Arriola said as he stated in his opening statements, if OPA investigators have done their job by serving the penal summons to Buckingham when the latter was at his office on Aug. 3, 2012, Ogumoro would not have been in court.

Arriola said Ogumoro took the witness stand and stated that the purpose of the escort service was to prevent the media from harassing Buckingham.

Arriola said this was never rebutted by the government.

Arriola said the information on a threat to arrest OPA investigators started by a mistaken misrepresentation of testimony by Police Officer Juan Mendiola.

"I submit that the government has failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt of the charges," he said.

In the government's rebuttal, Hasselback said there were over 90 phone calls from different people in this case.

Hasselback said he would have loved to see notarized written statements about Ogumoro and others in this conspiracy.

Hasselback said that's not how conspiracy works.

He said in this case, the conspiracy was done by cellphones that was carried out even at 3:15am.

Hasselback said Ogumoro testified that it was his genuine belief that the purpose was to escort a "sick, old man" to avoid the media.

"Can you believe him?" the special prosecutor said.

Hasselback said Ogumoro's version of the truth does not matchup.

The trial began on Tuesday.

Ogumoro is the only remaining defendant in this case.

Last Jan. 13, former Commonwealth Ports Authority police chief Jordan Kosam entered a guilty plea while the charges against his co-defendant, former CPA police captain John T. Rebuenog, were dismissed.

Kosam signed a plea deal with the government and pleaded guilty to one count of misconduct in public office.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja sentenced the 43-year-old Kosam to one year imprisonment, but suspended the imposition of the sentence. Naraja placed Kosam on three years of supervised release.

Wiseman dismissed the charges against Rebuenog after special prosecutor Hasselback moved to drop the charges.

Former governor Benigno R. Fitial pleaded guilty, while Buckingham was convicted during a bench trial. The charges against Fitial's former personal driver and bodyguard Jermaine Joseph W. Nekaifes were dismissed.

CHAMORROS

From Page 1

the Origins and Genetic Distinctiveness of the Chamorros: A Bi-Parental Analyses."

The former University of Pennsylvania post-doctoral research fellow based his analyses after getting DNA samples from 122 Chamorros from Guam, Rota, and Saipan in 2013. His study showed that the Chamorro people's origins could be traced to Indonesia and the Philippines.

Results reveal that 92 percent of Chamorros belong to haplogroup E, which is found in both Southeast Asian countries but is rare in Oceania. A haplogroup is a genetic population of a group of people who share a common ancestor on the paternal or maternal lineages.

Vilar, who is tracing the connection of the Chamorro people to modern day Indonesia and the Philippines, told *Saipan Tribune* that this could be part of the Austronesian migration and expansion that occurred thousands of years ago.

"It was really fascinating to learn that these people were expert seafarers. They managed to find the [Marianas] islands just by looking at the stars, studying wind conditions and direction of the waves," said Vilar. "It was a great feat and they truly are amazing people who discovered the small islands here in Micronesia."

"We have to dig deeper on this and break down the components to understand more. We need to do more research and work on this," said Vilar after his almost two-hour lecture that was presented by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council and attended by close to 100 people.

Filipino DNA further surfaced with the Philippines and the Marianas—Guam and the CNMI—being under Spanish colonial rule for hundreds of years. The Mariana Islands is the usual stop of Spanish Galleons going back to Spain by way of Mexico.

He said that in Guam alone five of the participants in 2013 showed they had Philippine lineage.

"This is mainly because of colonization. Filipino men integrated with Chamorro women."

Vilar said that bones and other sources of DNA should be preserved especially in tropical islands where heat is one factor that destroys remains of people.

"As technology in identifying and tracing DNA further advances we need to preserve remains of ancient people. We don't want to lose these evidences because of outside forces."

LOWER

From Page 3

cate very dry weather will continue through the next month or two at least," NWS said.

According to the weather service, water supplies "need to be monitored very closely" and water conservation is "highly encouraged" in the CNMI as rainfall has been below normal the past couple of months and will continue on to the next several months.

Guam is experiencing worse rainfall conditions as only 1.91 inches of rain was recorded for the island this month compared to its normal 3.41 inches.

Koror which has the highest normal rainfall amount for this month compared to other islands in the Micronesia and Marianas only experienced about 0.84 inch of rain—a far cry from the normal 7.32 inches.

SACKED

From Page 1

in the quorum count" because of conflicts between staggered term cycles set by law would follow through.

The Tinian municipality had argued that each of the commissioner's term should run from March 30, 1990, the date of appointment for the first set of commissioners, under a formal staggering scheme, even as one ex-commissioner, Bernadita Palacios, had been serving for more than five years by June last year.

On Tuesday, vice chairman Jose P. Kiyoshi made the motion to terminate Blanco-Maratita's contract. Kiyoshi is a former CEO of the Tinian Mayor's Office, who came on board the commission on or about Dec. 14 2015. Commissioners Charlene M. Lizama—a former Tinian Municipal treasurer who was appointed to the commission by mayor San Nicolas over two weeks ago—Patrick San Nicolas, and commissioner chair Esther Barr voted yes. Commissioner Lydia Barcinas voted no.

The commission also voted to terminate the legal services contract of the law firm of Bob O'Connor.

Under the Gaming Act, the executive director and the deputy director may be dismissed with or without cause.

"The commission did not give a reason for the dismissal," Blanco-Maratita told *Saipan Tribune* in an email. "An evaluation of my performance was not conducted prior to the action and none of the commissioners informed me or met with me to discuss that they were displeased with my performance."

Messages left to Barr and Kiyoshi at the commission's office last week were not immediately returned as of press time.

"It has been public knowledge that Tinian's elected leaders were after my removal," she said. "The removal is not surprising."

Blanco-Maratita's contract was set for the commission's agenda on a Jan. 13 meeting but that was recessed until last Tuesday.

During that meeting, Blanco-Maratita submitted a statement in hopes to clarify "a general misunderstanding of the role of the commission," in light of blame they taken for the closure of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, the lack of revenue stream, and the lack of local budget and money to pay for government jobs.

"That is not correct," Maratita said. "The job of the…commission is to 'control casino gaming.'"

She recalled the first month she was hired on May 2015; some 10 days after federal agents raided the Tinian Dynasty in late April, calling this a "turning point" for the industry.

"It was a wake-up call," she said, "that the regulation of our casino industry can no longer be 'business as usual' on Tinian."

From that time, she said the commission sough to obtain consultant and investigative resources to enforce a compliant and properly licensed industry, and vet services doing business with the casino.

"When I set out to execute those instructions of the commission, the Dynasty complained and insisted that we should not make it hard on them," she said in her prepared statement to the commission.

Blanco-Maratita notes the "most important" initiative she and the commission undertook was the clean up of deduction of junket play commission and rebates from gross gaming revenue. These deductions violated the local Gaming Act and were terminated, she said, to much resistance from the casino and local politicians. "So much so that the tax structure was amended to lower the gaming tax from essentially 12 percent to 5 percent for high rollers," she added.

She also defended the delays in casino applicant processing. "When applicants and operators insist they do not have to follow the law…when they refuse to submit or not respond to document request or do not fully respond (especially where financial documents and source of funds are concerned,) they delay the process.

"…It is not enough that an investor come to Tinian with bags of money, millions of dollars," she said.

PSS authorized to enter USDA loan to build 10 kindergarten classrooms

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed a new law Thursday, which will allow the Public School System to enter into a guaranteed loan of about $5 million for the primary purpose of infrastructure development such as classroom building, among others.

PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburg said these additional 10 classrooms are needed as PSS continues to see school populations rise.

"There is just not enough kindergarten classrooms, that's our problem in a nutshell," Thornburg said. "About every year there are about 200 children that would like to go to kindergarten in our public schools but cannot because we do not have enough facilities."

U.S. Department of Agriculture officials also attended the signing event last Thursday. PSS will be securing the loan from USDA.

"We are very excited about this opportunity to be able to look at partnering with the public schools and be able to expand the education opportunities out here," said USDA community programs director Robin Pulkkinen on Friday.

Koberville Elementary School principal Rizalina Liwag said they are excited for these new projects. "We are very fortunate that will be chosen as one of these schools that will be given the opportunity to have more buildings and more classrooms."

She said new paved parking—another improvement on top of two new classrooms—would help organize parking during events and have parents attend more activities.

On the extended classrooms, she said, "that is something that our school really needs." Instead of just two classes, we'll have four full sessions of kindergarten, which is really our target."

"We are doing it half day right now. If these classes are built during the summer, we'll have full day classes" of four per day, she added.

According to Thornburg, two new kindergarten classrooms will be built in Garapan, Koblerville, and Oleai elementary schools, as well as another two classrooms for Dandan Middle School.

Tinian Elementary School will get a paved parking lot, and another one is to be paved for Sinapalo Elementary School in Rota. The parking lot of the PSS head start center in Garapan will be paved also.

Hana
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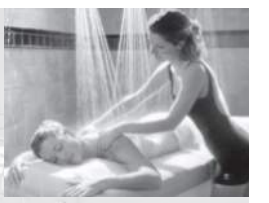
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Performance without compromise. With a Gasoline Direct Injection (GDI) Engine that produces powerful get up and go, the Rio is the state-of-the-art sub-compact that's as fun to look at as it is to drive.

2016 Sportage | starting at $165 per paycheck
Perfect for the road ahead.
Whichever road you choose, the 2016 Sportage is more than ready. With agile handling, an exceptionally smooth ride, and a range of first-class features, every drive is more fun.
2016 Sedona | starting at $227 per paycheck
Transform your drive.
The 2016 Sedona is premium comfort with the power to transform. Fitted with the Smart Power Liftgate and available second-row First-Class Lounge Seats, the Sedona offers a spacious driver cockpit and versatile Slide-N-Stow™ seats, providing intuitive control and flexibility that keeps pace with you.
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Kia Forte LX retail price $17,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $285.06 or $131.57 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $17,103.60.
Kia Soul LX retail price $18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $300.90 or $138.88 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $18,054.00.
Kia Sportage LX retail price $22,495.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $356.34 or $164.46 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $21,380.40.
Kia Sedona LX retail price $30,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $490.99 or $226.61 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $29,459.40.
Kia Cadenza Premium retail price $35,995 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $570.20 or $263.17 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $34,212.00.

‘CUC has rare opportunity to achieve financial goals’

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board will be reconvening in a public meeting today to discuss, among other things, possible options for a potential rate application.

CUC’s rate consultant, Economists.com, discussed with the board last Thursday information for a “potential direction of a restructuring of CUC’s electric rates.”

“We are not providing any recommendations to the board with regards to any rates at this time. All we’re trying to do is present to you some numbers that we can show you to illustrate the impact of certain decisions that you as a board might make regarding what costs you want to recover, and what expenses you want to fund,” Economists.com managing director and chief executive Dan Jackson said at the beginning of the presentation.

According to Jackson, CUC has a “unique” and “very rare” opportunity to achieve certain goals financially.

This is because CUC has reduced the average residential bill by 52 percent, in the last two years according to Jackson.

“In other words, rate payers today are paying half of what they’re paying in 2014. For residential customers today, their monthly electric charges are now as low as they have been in 2005,” Jackson said.

“There’s a possibility that electric charges may be reduced even further if oil prices continue to fall,” he added.

Jackson further illustrated his point by saying that a residential customer consuming 400 kilowatt hour per month is currently paying about $67.50.

This is significantly lower from the April 2014 when the same customer paid $140.90 for the same service, and much lower than in 2008 when the same customer with the same consumption paid $208.

This is because of the high price of oil eight years ago, reaching about $150 per barrel.

“Since the peak of August 2008, ratepayers’ bill has come down by almost 70 percent,” Jackson added.

The main reason for the reduction of utility bills is because of the fuel adjustment charge from $0.30 in April 2014 to $0.12 cents today.

“The fact that residential electric bills has been reduced by 50 percent, presents you as a board and CUC as a utility with a very unique opportunity to potentially restructure your electric rates to achieve many objectives,” Jackson said.

Because of the low price of oil which is projected to continue to go down, Jackson said CUC has the opportunity to restore the corporation’s financial health, improve the quality of its service, and retire its outstanding obligations while “ensuring that its ratepayers will continue to pay far less than they did two years ago.”

Economists.com included five items that CUC may consider in their adjustment, namely the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. agreement and bad debts increase, payment due to the Commonwealth Development Authority, Typhoon Soudelor restoration and mitigation, non-grant funded capital improvements projects, and power plant reserve fund contribution.

These items corresponds to different possible rate adjustments should the board decide to fund them and at what amount.

In the sample computation presented by the rate consultants, the potential rate adjustment was said to result to increased revenue for CUC’s projects while ratepayers would still pay bills that were lower than what they paid for in 2014.

Last April, CUC submitted to the Public Utilities Commission the board-approved applications Docket 1502 and 1503 which establishes a uniform base rate—then calculated to be at $0.069—for residential customers, and eliminates water electric charge and increase electric base rates to recover lost revenue, respectively.

The said proposed uniform base rate of $0.069 last year will go up to $0.092 as Public Law 16-7 which gives a $0.0230 credit to residential ratepayers is set to expire this year.

However, Jackson noted that since the April 2015 filing, there have been several material impacts on CUC and a base rate of $0.092 would not give CUC the revenue it needs.

No actions have been done by PUC following the filing of these applications especially after Typhoon Soudelor. The board could withdraw these applications and submit a revised rate plan to the commission.

Several board members asked for more data from Economist.com to include calculations of several factors such as the possible enactment of a bill that will require public land leases to be connected to CUC. They are expected to have discussions on these additional pieces of information today.

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Guerrero confirmed as DPS commissioner

The Senate last Friday confirmed the appointment of Robert Guerrero to the post of the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

Senators also confirmed Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' nominations of Clarence Tenorio to the Commonwealth Ports Authority board and David Demapan to the Commonwealth Development Authority board.

"I am glad that it's over," Guerrero told reporters after his confirmation during a Senate session last Friday. "Now, I can get to work."

Asked for the issues he'd like to tackle first at his new post, the former Department of Corrections commissioner spoke to "taking care" of his officers. "The governor mentioned that we are trying to get salaries commensurate with their duties, get them uniforms, get them vehicles so they can do their work in protecting the community."

"These guys have been their 10 or 15 years at the entry level so the governor saw that" and also my predecessor, James Deleon Guerrero. "Unfortunately, money is tight. The administration is taking extra steps in addressing and trying to identify the funds to try to bring up salaries of all law enforcement, not just DPS."

"The governor is looking across the board as far as law enforcement is concerned," Guerrero added.

On rumors that "ice," or crystal methamphetamine, was in his department, Guerrero said that rumors that ice is in government or across the community is "no secret," and said he would continue to strive to solve the problem.

During the session, Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) urged Guerrero to look at issues like the exponential increases of car rentals for tourists and the related issues in road safety because of that, as well as illegal taxies on island, among others. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

CNMI expects to get $5M for CUC projects next week

Pursuant to a federal court's final order, the CNMI government is required by Feb. 1, 2016, to deposit $5 million into the U.S. District Court for the NMI's registry or file a notice with the court of an authorization to proceed from the U.S. Department of the Interior for funding to some Commonwealth Utilities Corp. projects.

In the CNMI government's status report regarding the Commonwealth's grant funding filed in District Court on Thursday, assistant attorney general Teresita J. Sablan said the Commonwealth expects DOI to issue an authorization to proceed for $5 million by Feb. 1.

Last Nov. 13, the government submitted an amended Fiscal Year 2016 Commonwealth Improvement Projects spending plan to DOI's Office of Insular Affairs to include the $5 million funding requirement for Stipulated Order 2 projects.

Sablan said the $5 million FY 2016 grant will be used for cleanup, inspection and repair of Tank 103 ($730,614), CUC pipeline construction ($3,887,161), and construction management by Engineering Environmental Management Company (382,225).

Sablan aid OIA is currently reviewing the 2016 grant applications for these SO2 projects.

After OIA's review, she said, the grant applications will be passed on to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for National Environmental Policy Act review and a recommendation to issue an authorization to proceed.

Sablan said provided that no issues arise in the review process, OIA expects to issue an authorization to proceed for $5 million by Feb. 1, 2016.

Sablan also disclosed that the government submitted the 2017 grant applications to OIA that seek $4,979,570 funding for SO2 projects.

The SO2 projects are decommissioning of the existing CUC pipeline and smart pigging of the new CUC pipeline (720,729); waste management for Power Plants 1 and 2 on Saipan and Rota power plant ($2,389,626); engineering and design of facility drainage improvements for Power Plants 1 and 2 ($896,773); soil cleanup for Power Plant 1 (607,324), and SO2 construction management by EEMC (365,118).

Sablan said the applications are pending review by OIA, and no authorization has been issued yet.

Sablan said pursuant to the final order, the authorization to proceed is due on or before Feb. 1, 2017.

Meanwhile, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter was set to visit yesterday CUC's controversial pipeline project site. In his order last week, Carter said EEMC will only accompany him during the visit.

Gilbane Federal is a California-based full service construction company that was appointed by federal court to serve as EEMC and tasked to expeditiously complete some stalled CUC projects.

Carter also set a status conference today, Monday, at 9am regarding progress on the pipeline project and the Tank 102 project.

The oil pipeline project is an 8-inch aboveground receiving pipeline that delivers diesel fuel from the Mobil oil facility to CUC Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had stated that until the pipeline is properly repaired or replaced, it poses a threat to the adjacent ocean.

Tank 102 project involves a 500,000-gallon diesel fuel tank that will replace Tank 010. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CNMI Public School System
Interagency Coordinating Council

Early Intervention Services – The Key to the Future

Agenda

Thursday, January 28, 2016

I. Meeting Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Review Minutes

IV. Coordinator's Report
- APR 2016
- SSIP Phase II
- Child find/ Public awareness 2016
- Grant Application 2016

V. New membership

VI. Open Discussion

VII. Meeting Adjourned

Sunshine Garden
RESTAURANT

MAIN DISHES

LIVE LOBSTER
$45 1lb Lobster Only

COMBO
1.5lb. Live Lobster and Baby Back Ribs or St. Louis Spareribs withj 2 cup Toast Salad $80

Live Lobster and Ribs Combo
1lb. Live Lobster and Baby Back Ribs or St. Louis Spareribs with 1 Cup Toast Salad $70

STEAK
New York 12oz. $32

Steak Combo
Mahi or Salmon 6oz Tender Loin with Soup $32

Rib Eye 14oz. with Corn Soup $35

Two Side Dishes of Choice: Baked Potato Loaded/Broccoli/Corn/Rice

Choice of sauce: Sunshine/Bernaise/Demiglaze

RIBS
The Original Baby Back Ribs

Full Slab 10-12 bones $30
Baby Back Ribs 9-10 bones $28
Half Baby Back Ribs 6-7 bones $16
Full Slab Spare Ribs 10-12 bones $27
Half Slab Spare Ribs 5-6 bones $15

Two side dishes of choice: Baked Potato Loaded/Broccoli/Corn/Rice
Choice of Sauce: Regular BBQ Sauce/Hickory Brown Sauce/ Smoky Sauce

BURGER
Cheese Burger $10
8oz. Patty with cut Cello Lettuce, Tomato, Pickles with Mushroom Sauce

Triple Cheese Burger $12
Monterey Jack Cheddar and Provolone

Sides:
One Side Dish of Choice: French Fries, Corn/Broccoli/Rice

COMBO MEAL

Beef Stroganof $12 | Chamorro Sausage with Mushroom $10 | Stir-Fried Tofu $8 | Hot & Spicy Noodle Soup $10 | Combo Set $12 Pizza ($11) | Steak/Flank $10 | Cheese Burger $10 | Chicken Tandoorie $10 | Cordon Bleu $16

South Western Chicken $12 | Beef Bulgogi $12 | Fried Porkchop $10 | Combo Seafood $12 | Beef Salpecao $10 | Calzoni $11 | Hawaiian Pizza | Vegetarian Pizza 12" | Four Kind of Cheese Pizza

APPETIZERS

Chicken Wings $8
With Green Bedding Vegetable Choice of Sauce: Shriracha or Buffalo

Potato Skin $6
Cheese, Bacon and Green Onion

Gambas Al Ajillo $9
7pcs Shrimp with Chili Pepper

Breaded Calamari $9

Sunshine Nachos $9
Tomato, Onion, Cheese, Ground Beef, Sour Cream, Guacamole

Bruschetta $5
French Bread, Tomatoes, Basil Leaves

French Bread with Peas Pesto $5

SALADS

Toast Salad $8
With Tomato, Cucumber and Black Olive.
Dressing: Thousand Islands, Honey Mustard, French, Vinaigrette, Ranch

Caesar Salad $8
With Lettuce, Bacon Bits, Cheese

Grilled Shrimp $14
Grilled Chicken $12
Dressing: Caesar Dressing

SOUP

Clam Chowder $3
Bake Potato Soup $3

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'Courtesy resignations won't affect DPL advisory board'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Public Lands advisory board member Henry Hofschneider said they won't be affected by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' request for officials to submit their courtesy resignations.

Submitting courtesy resignations is a standard operating procedure especially when a new administration takes over. Torres assumed the CNMI governor post after the death of the late governor Eloy S. Inos last month.

"I see no problem with that, on the issue of the courtesy resignation. We're also waiting for the new appointee of the Gov. Torres," said Hofschneider, who is also Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang's special assistant.

Patricia Rasa had been the DPL acting secretary since DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio went on leave early last month.

Hofschneider was sworn is a member of the DPL advisory board after being appointed by Apatang, who cited that his vast knowledge in dealing with public lands is the main reason for his appointment. The advisory board acts as the DPL secretary's conscience where they make recommendations but the final decision still lies with the department head.

Tenorio two weeks ago told press secretary Ivan Blanco that he would submit his courtesy resignation to Torres. Tenorio, a former Washington representative, was appointed by Inos.

Hofschneider said that they have also been waiting for Torres' appointee to the advisory board as a courtesy to the new governor before they could meet as a whole.

"We're still four members to the advisory board and we've been asking the secretary for a meeting but he has yet to respond. If Gov. Torres still could not appoint his representative, we'll go ahead with the meeting since there's already a quorum," he said.

Dave Evangelista for Tinian, Frank Quitugua for Rota, and William Torres for the Northern Islands join Hofschneider as members of the advisory board that were appointed by their respective mayors.

"DPL secretary Tenorio wrote to the advisory board and there are other things that need to be done. The advisory board needs to get together and meet," Hofschneider said.

"We know that Gov. Torres is still busy since it is still the transition period but we would schedule a meeting of the advisory board. We need to sit, work a plan and inform the public on what's going with public lands. We need to discuss a lot of issues that are DPL's main concern," he added.

The impending expiration of Kan Pacific Saipan's lease, the Kan Pacific and Best Sunshine International, Ltd. negotiations, and the military build-up on Tinian and their plan to use Pagan for live training are among the topics that DPL needs to address.

The advisory board is also planning to make an inventory of available public lands with new investors lining up various construction projects.

Malasarte thanks local Masons for 'overwhelming support'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Outgoing Worshipful Master Romeo D. Malasarte is thankful for the overwhelming support of the entire Emon Lodge No. 179 of the Free and Accepted Masons of the CNMI.

Malasarte, who headed the CNMI Masons for the 2015-2016 Masonic Year, will be stepping down when formal installation of the new elected and appointed officers takes place next week. The ceremony will be held at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall on Jan. 30.

Malasarte, who owns and operates Armatech Corp., will become an Immediate Past Master once incoming Worshipful Master Peter Crisostomo is installed.

Grand Master Mason Tomas Rentoy III of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, which jurisdiction Emon Lodge No. 179 falls under, will visit the CNMI in April.

Malasarte, who is also the Overseas E's District Deputy Grand Master, said 2015 has been a challenging for the CNMI especially on Saipan after the devastation brought by Typhoon Soudelor.

"Time flies so fast. I was overwhelmed by the 100 percent support given to me by all the Masons and I thank them for that," said Malasarte, who replaced Very Worshipful Master Daniel E. Banez last year.

"We were able to raise funds for our community projects especially after Soudelor where we joined the community in the recovery efforts," Malasarte added.

Malasarte and the officers of Emon Lodge 179 that is set to be installed will then join 430 other lodges in the annual communication in April in Tagaytay City, Philippines where more than 5,000 Mason members will be attending.

It will also mark the formal installation of the Philippines' Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin as Grand Master, replacing Rentoy.

Emon Lodge has also organized a basketball league and formed a team that joined in a separate tournament. The CNMI Masons' membership also increased during Malasarte's one-year term.

"To find new members and increase our numbers were our target. To become a Mason you must ask one, to be one. Those who interested will undergo a process, which we also experienced," he said.

An applicant must first be endorsed by two Free Mason members and his name would then be submitted along with the other candidates to the Grand Lodge for reading. If no objections were made, the name of the applicant will return to the Lodge where he is applying at where the members would vote for formal his entry to the Free Masons.

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INVITATION TO BID
NMHC IFB 2016-003

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Renovation of two (2) Fire Stations in Saipan (Koblerville Fire Station and San Roque Fire Station)

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor Hocog, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested licensed companies to provide construction services for the renovation of the two (2) Fire Stations located in Koblerville, Saipan and San Roque, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning **February 1, 2016** at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays. A non-refundable payment of **Twenty Five Dollars *($25.00) is required for each set.*** Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are also advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. All wage rates for laborers, mechanics and all other employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage or the wage determination for the Commonwealth as specified in CM130001 for the Mariana Islands.

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m. on February 23, 2016**, at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked **NMHC IFB 2016-003**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill (Former EMO Office), Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, March 08, 2016**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, March 08, 2016** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than **March 08, 2016**, AND the ITB documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill (Former EMO Office) no later than **March 17, 2016**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill (Former EMO Office), Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, March 18, 2016**. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time, March 08, 2016**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Renovation of two (2) Fire Stations in Saipan". Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable le to the Attorney General.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Fifty Dollars (US$150.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

For information, contact Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

Edward C. Sablan
NMHC Board Chairman & Contracting Officer

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION TO BID
CUC-ITB-16-004

SURVEYED VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on CUC Surveyed Vehicles & Equipment located in Saipan & Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained at no charge upon registration at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and One (1) copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-ITB-16-004, CUC Surveyed Vehicles & Equipment"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 26, 2016,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders must sign a Waiver of Liability, removing CUC's liability from claims resulting from violations relating to the removal and disposal of the surveyed vehicles & equipment. CUC shall transfer and assign the surveyed vehicles/equipment to the prospective bidder in an **"As is, Where is"** condition. By accepting the transfer and assignment, the bidder acknowledges that CUC has made no representation or warranties of the merchantability, quality, fitness, and condition of the vehicles/equipment.

The vehicles/equipment may be inspected by appointment only, between the hours of 9:00 AM thru 3:00 PM Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, by contacting CUC Procurement & Supply Division at telephone no. 664-4282 extensions 367 & 305. For the vehicles on Tinian, please contact Winston Omar at 433-9261 or 433-3488.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 19, 2016, to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Administrative Technician for Procurement via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

Jeffrey Jones named Executive of the Year

TUMON, Guam—Jeffrey B. Jones, president and chief operating officer of Triple J Enterprises Inc., was named the 2015 Guam Business Magazine Executive of the Year at the annual *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year award gala held Saturday night at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

The annual *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year gala is a fundraising event for the Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross. This year's event drew approximately 400 people.

Born and raised on Guam, Jones, 52, is a graduate of Father Duenas Memorial School. He holds a 1985 bachelor's in business from the University of North Carolina. He began working for the family business at the age of 12.

Triple J Enterprises began as a small apartment rental business, followed by the acquisition of the Subaru franchise in 1984 from J&G and the launch of Triple J Motors. A Saipan office opened in 1985, and Triple J began expanding through Micronesia. In 1987 Jones opened and operated Thrifty Car Rental.

He became general manager of Triple J Motors in 1990. While leading that operation, he added several brands to the vehicle portfolio including Isuzu, Mitsubishi, and Suzuki. Jones also planned and developed the Triple J Tire business.

In 2000, Jones was promoted to executive vice president. Under his leadership, the automotive division continued expansion with the addition of the Ford, Mazda, and Volvo brands, as well as the development of Triple J's dealership and headquarters in Upper Tumon, which opened in 2006. That growth was followed by the acquisition of Honda and Acura, as well as the Hertz Rent-a-Car franchise.

Jones was promoted to his current position in the company in 2012. The Triple J group of companies includes Triple J Auto Group, Triple J Food Group, Triple J Restaurant Group, and Triple J Real Estate & Development Group.

He is the 2015 chairman of the board of directors of the Guam Chamber of Commerce and 2014 to 2015 president of the USO Guam Advisory Council. He serves on the leadership board of Bayview Church as well as the board of Pacific Mission Aviation. As the American Red Cross Guam Chapter's 2015 Red Ball chairman, he raised a record $250,000 for the chapter's endeavors.

Jones and his wife, R. Jane Jones, have five children: Jessica, 19; Jonah, 17; Jasmine, 14; Jada, 11; and Josiah, 9.

Jones

Jones is featured in portraiture on the cover of the *Guam Business Magazine* January-February issue, which was released at the gala.

Jones joined seven other executives in vying for the prestigious award: Benson F.F. Au-Yeung, president, Soft Pacific Inc., which does business as Benz Sign Supplies and Paradise Awning; Lynn S. Baker, president and general manager, Baker International Inc., which does business as J.L. Baker & Sons; Andrew M. Gayle Jr., chief operating officer, GTA; Lars F. Hellmont, co-owner, Fujita Property Guam Inc., and co-founder, SN Entities; Angel C. Mendoza, president and general manager, DKSH Micronesia; Mark J. Sablan, vice president-business development, South Pacific Petroleum Corp.; and Anthony John Sage, vice president and general manager, Watts Constructors LLC.

Past Executive of the Year recipients include Robert H. Jones of Triple J Enterprises (1983); John M. Borlas of IT&E Overseas Inc. (1984); Philip J. Flores of BankPacific (1985); Doris Flores Brooks of the Office of Public Accountability (1986); Mark V. Pangilinan of M.V. Pangelinan Enterprises Inc. (1987); Allen A. Pickens of Tax-Aide (1988); the late T. Roy Sullivan of Jones & Guerrero Co. (1989); Kurt S. Moylan of Moylan's Insurance (1990); Akira "Mike" Baba of Baba Corp. (1991); Paul M. Calvo of Calvo Enterprises Inc. (1992); Antoinette D. Sanford of Sanford Technology Group (1993); the late Kenneth T. Jones of Jones & Guerrero Co. (1994); the late Edward M. Calvo of Calvo Enterprises Inc. (1995); L. Carl Peterson of Money Resources Inc. (1996); William R. Thompson (1997); John K. Lee of First Hawaiian Bank (1998); the late Henry L. Schnabel of Calvo's Insurance Underwriters (1999); Marian Aldan-Piercen of DFS Saipan (2000); Manfred H. Pieper of the Conrad Bangkok (2001); Thomas G. Ahillen of Asia Pacific Solutions LLC (2002); Juan T. Guerrero of Herman's Modern Bakery Inc. (2003); Joey Crisostomo of Cars Plus LLC, Cycles Plus and Payless Car Rental (2004); Joseph "Jerry" Kramer of Pacific International Inc. (2004); David M. Sablan of Century Group of Companies (2005); Alfred C. Ysrael of Tanota Partners (2006); Lee P. Webber of MDA Guam(2007); Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay of First Hawaiian Bank (2008); Jerry Cho Yee Tan of Tan Holdings Inc. (2009); Lourdes A. "Lou" Leon Guerrero of Bank of Guam (2010); Jay R. Shedd of Docomo Pacific (2011); Jerrold C. Johnson of Hawaiian Rock Products (2012); George Chiu of Tan Holdings (2013); and Norman T. Tenorio of Joeten Enterprises Inc. and Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. on Saipan (2014).

The following sponsors are thanked for their contributions and assistance: T Galleria by DFS, Delta Air Lines, Shimbros Inc., Hyatt Regency Guam, Quality Distributors, Coca-Cola Beverage Co., Foremost Foods Inc. and Sorensen Media Group.

For any questions or inquiries, please contact Jackie Hanson, managing editor of *Guam Business Magazine*, at (671) 649-0883 ext. 126 or email managingeditor@glimpsesofguam.com. ***(PR)***

Estelita D. Macale
P.O. Box 505893 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 USA
233-0242

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ESTELITA D. MACALE Petitioner	)	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0038
vs.	)	**SUMMONS**
JACINTO L. MACALE Respondednt,	)	

TO: Jacinto L. Macale

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notifed to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Estelita Macale whose address is P.O. Box 505893 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 USA as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 19th day of January, 2011.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVI, Issue No. 25

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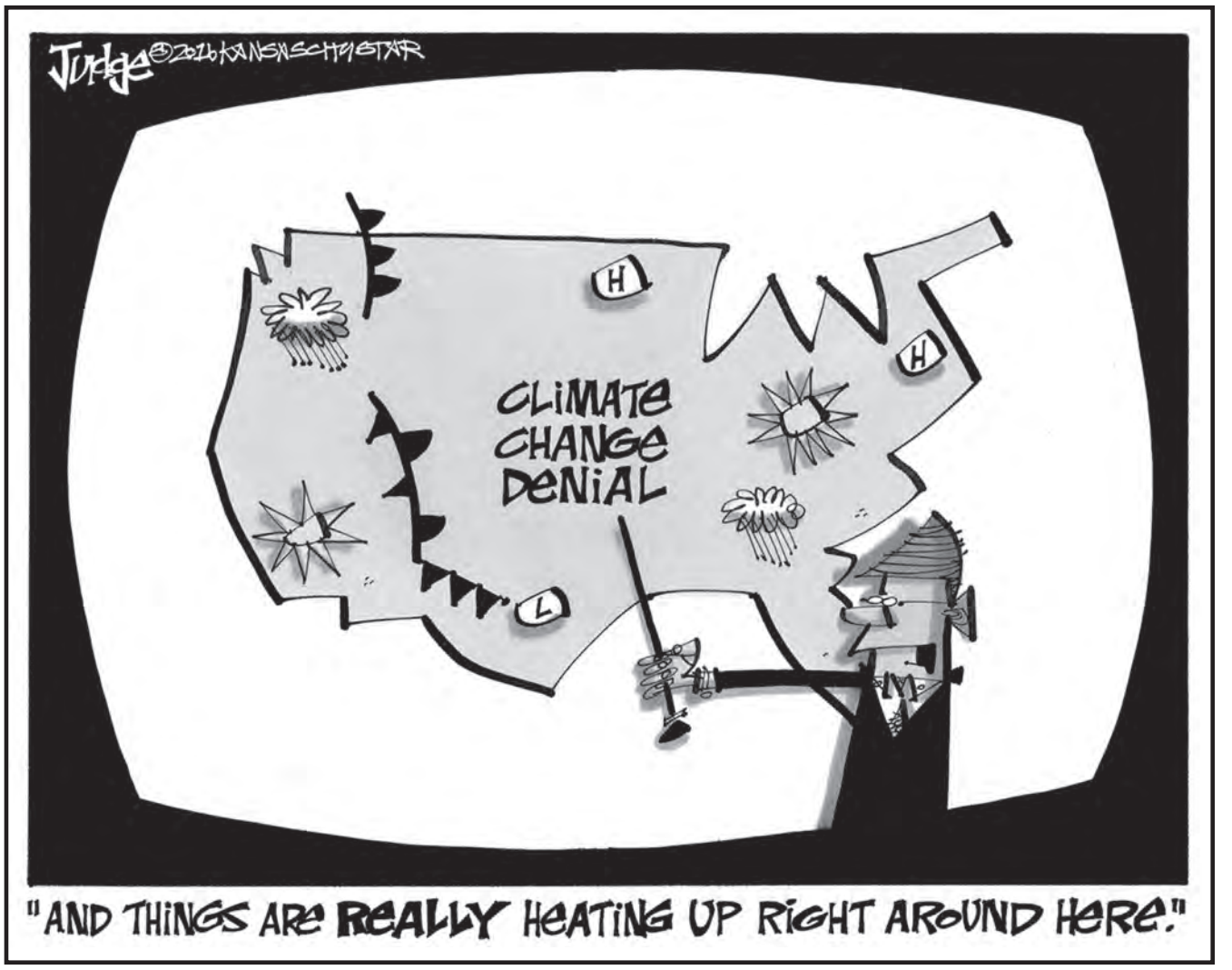

EDITORIAL

An unnatural disaster in Flint

A year ago, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder chose an unfortunate metaphor to launch his second term in office. During his state of the state address in January 2015, the Republican governor shared his vision for bringing all Michigan residents into a "river of opportunity."

Clearly, he didn't mean the Flint River, which was the source of a health emergency that has grown over the past 21 months and turned into an appalling political scandal that reaches the governor. Call it Snyder's "river of failure."

By the time the embattled governor delivered his 2016 State of the State address Tuesday evening, he had already admitted that the crisis in Flint, where contaminated tap water from the river has caused widespread lead poisoning and possibly an outbreak of Legionnaires disease that has killed 10 people, was a failure of his leadership.

For many of the 99,000 residents of Flint, a struggling industrial town about 70 miles northwest of Detroit, the state's slow response to the crisis has sparked outrage and calls for the governor's resignation.

The troubles began in 2014, when Flint, under the leadership of a state-mandated emergency manager, opted to switch the city's water source to the Flint River from a Detroit-operated pipeline from Lake Huron, a move that would save an estimated $5 million over two years while the city waited to connect to another, new pipeline back to Lake Huron.

The switch sparked immediate complaints from residents who were alarmed by the brown, smelly water flowing from their kitchen faucets. Soon after, local doctors noticed a spike in children coming in with unexplained rashes and hair loss. After more than a year of complaints — and repeated reassurances from local and state officials — a Flint pediatrician presented blood tests that revealed an alarming increase in the number of toddlers with high levels of lead in their systems, which can cause permanent brain damage, since the water source switch.

The city was being poisoned.

It turns out that state regulators had failed to require Flint to properly treat the river water, which was more corrosive than the Lake Huron water the city used to pipe in. The corrosive water running through Flint's aging lead pipes caused the metal to leach into the city's tap water. Growing evidence of toxic water was ignored — some allege it was covered up — by state and local officials, as well as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

There has been plenty of blame to go around. In Michigan, it has stretched from the governor to the Genesee County drain commissioner.

Lead-contaminated water flowed for more than a year in Flint, which finally stopped sourcing its water from the river in October. The water flowing through the city's lead-leaching pipes is still considered undrinkable, though.

So much damage has been done it's difficult to determine which piece of this man-made disaster is most egregious.

Is it the original decision to tap the Flint River? Well,

See FLINT on Next Page

Despair

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

A retired teaching colleague who lives at my apartment complex often goes around the parking lot picking up the trash and the ubiquitous plastic that seem to reproduce in numbers each day.

One day while drizzling, he was walking aimlessly back-and-forth in the parking lot close to tears looking lost. He was lost. When I talked to him, the tears were about to fall. I asked what was the matter and he said that he has become incapable of making any decision; worst, he no longer has any idea what matters needed to be decided upon.

On my silent blank look, he continued that he just downed one of his medical pills but he can't seem to get off "depression." He had no sense of what needed to be done. His thoughts were circuitous at its best.

That was terrifying. I just came back from China then. I brought back with me eight packs of cigarettes that were lying around my house previously bought for keepsake or consumed by my wife and stepson when they still smoked but I decided they needed to be thrown away. I should have done that while I was still in Dong Bei. Instead, I brought them home with me.

Since airport Customs in Shenyang suggested I checked in the Jim Beam and beer (Royal Dutch, 16 percent alcohol per volume) handed over by the manager of the Waterbear Language Studio, going back to the front counter to check it in as luggage involved too many procedures so I allowed them to dispose of the liquid. I was still despondent over the matter when I reached Saipan but discovered an unopened bottle of Fundador in one of the kitchen closets.

Well, the Kent got me back to smoking in spite of the bold sign on the pack that clearly said, "Smoking kills!" Three fingers of Fundador allayed the awful solitude of being by my lonesome and before I knew it, I was carefully disposing of butts and letting three-fingers of alcohol send me to oblivion into the night. In two weeks, I was a despairing addict. Unable to find consistent income source, the despair was subtle, but I needed none of my acquaintances' depression pills. I was already despondent, and broke.

My mouth was dry from smoking and drinking. My muse continued to be writing the tri-weekly output I promised my paper, but while hacking perched up my kitchen elevated table, I was taking breaks of four steps out of my door to the walkway and lighting up. Previously, I developed an allergy to second hand smoke as a former inhaler, but I got comfortable again with the smell of tobacco that I did not even pretend to cover up with a liberal dose of toothpaste and mouthwash. I was in bed before nine, thanks to the Fundi.

You'd think I would be thankful for the company of Kent and Fundador. Mind you, they are no strangers, but I left their acquaintance more than 30 years ago, and now, they have become bosom friends again.

Soudelor had been unkind to many in terms of income and today, I line up at NAP for the Monday orientation to find out if I qualify to certify. Will have fun doing what the less fortunate folks have to go through.

The SSA folks who keep a poker face were friendly but while they helped my tax data entry, the IRS was not too forgiving on speed given the volume of their workload. Happily, a lady on the other end of the phone looked at her rules and discovered that she could wave the penalty levied on my 2011 deleted. Chalk one for humans!

After the MD gave me a clean bill of health to meet requirements to teach, my cervical spondylosis started acting up again, almost eight years after I first endured the discomfort that sent me seeking therapy, withdrawing my retirement contributions in the process. The CNMI paid no counterpart and I shouldered my own medical. Now, I could not very well be healthy to teach, and apply for disability at the same time, could I?

Old age reminded me that my muscles are past neural distress. I dropped a tater on the floor and I picked it up with great effort just to get back up again. Meantime, my dental bridge fell so I negotiated at the dentist to start charging my CC in installments, hurried to my landlord to defer charging rent.

My neighbor continues to pick up trash in the parking lot, especially when it rains. He relishes walking up and down the wet incline that characterizes our parking lot. There must be comfort in the rain. On island, when it rains, it pours, oh, a good 15 minutes. Enough therapy.

See DESPAIR on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Living in paradise

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Haidee V. Eugenio covered politics, mmigration, environment, business and other news beats as a reporter for Saipan Tribune *and other news media in the CNMI for 16 years. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Photos of a yellow 4-wheel drive stuck on a beautiful sandy beach known as nesting ground for threatened green sea turtles at Laulau Bay were posted on social media a few days ago.

Before that, there were social media photos of fancy tourist rental cars burning or turned belly up by the roadside or driven—and then stuck—in the waters of the iconic Saipan Lagoon.

And most of us have personally experienced this: Beach Road traffic comes to a halt while tourists driving rental cars stop in the middle of the road to take photos, without regard to road laws, rules, and other road users.

And then there are stories of tourists defecating on the beach.

What followed the most recent posting of photos of a 4WD stuck on a sandy beach was a barrage of criticism, commentaries, and proposed solutions.

People pointed to the lack of education among suspected tourists about CNMI environmental and traffic laws, the CNMI government's lack of enforcement of these statutes, whether any additional gaming revenue has already gone to regulatory and law enforcement agencies to enforce the laws, whether vehicle rental companies or tour agents should also be held liable to a certain degree, and the price the CNMI has to pay for being unable to strike a delicate balance between new tourism money and the wellbeing of residents and environment.

The influx of moneyed tourists on island territories' shores, including the CNMI where the U.S. government temporarily waived the requirement of a U.S. tourist visa for Chinese and Russian tourists, is pretty much welcome economic news.

They beef up government revenues, shore up investments, create jobs for residents, and—ideally—fund the impact on and provide more for public safety, public health, public education, power, water, sewer, roads, and other public infrastructure.

But where does one island community like Saipan draw the line between getting as many tourists as possible for the economic activity they bring and raising peoples' standard of living without degrading the natural environment, without sacrificing peace and order and without corrupting those in public offices?

While some would argue that the CNMI still has among the cleanest and most pristine beaches in the world or still among the safest communities, a lot needs to be done now before it's too late to make sure the islands remain as beautiful, peaceful and orderly if not more pristine for future generations.

Ironically, some of the very same officials who legalized Saipan casino legislation that has irreversible impact on the environment, the landscape and the island way of life—without public consultation despite voters' earlier direct rejection of the proposal twice—are now touting a slow and steady growth plan.

To quote concerned citizen Glen Hunter, "There was nothing slow or gradual about that whole process…It seems that immediate, fast and improperly planned development was behind the push to get an exclusive casino license handed to a specific bidder…The only thing slow about this whole process has been transparency."

As for the current executive and leadership, another one said, "Looks like BS has the best government it could imagine."

But it's also true that the government you elect is the government you deserve. We'll see this once again when voters go to the polls this November for the midterm elections.

Alex Sablan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, once again called on the government to focus on a controlled and planned development. Previous calls fell on deaf ears. Hopefully this time there will be positive response.

The basic idea, he said, is to look at development "in terms of backtracking and fitting out where the CNMI is in terms of its worker pool and determining how many rooms the CNMI can open up with that worker pool; getting contractors to move into the project-oriented H-visas, and getting professional level CWs into other visas to see what the real CW needs are, for example."

The government's turtle pace in reviewing and updating its land use plan long before, during, and after allowing a promised $7.1-billion integrated casino resort on Saipan by an exclusive investor group also does not inspire trust and confidence.

Functioning power, water, road, and other public infrastructure are barely sufficient to address the needs of the present population. What more when all the touted additional developments come to full fruition and more tourists are being planned to bring in for these developments, considering the government's perennial lack of infrastructure planning?

The government cannot even enforce its decades-old anti-littering laws, what more enforcing no-driving on beaches laws when the limited number of enforcement personnel cannot be in most of the popular beaches all the time?

The CNMI was among the first island territories in the Pacific to ban shark finning, but needs to do more to enforce such law.

Just two months ago, three dead juvenile sharks without fins and tails were found on Saipan. Makes one wonder just how much demand there is for shark fin soup, despite what's supposed to be a monumental law in place against shark finning.

And just what portion, if any, of supposedly additional revenue from all gaming-related business activities in the CNMI goes to enforcement of environmental laws or making sure the hospital stays open even without millions from the U.S. federal government?

The continued absence of casino tax for an exclusive Saipan casino license holder is also very much telling of the kind of governance and leadership there is. A comparison made by foreign media months back showed Macau imposes a 39 percent tax rate; the Philippines, 27 percent; Vietnam, 35 percent; and Saipan, zero.

Now, it's true the casino license holder pays business gross revenue tax just like what every business ought to do, pays a license fee that's expected of an exclusive license holder, and donates to any causes they can get their hands on, but they remain exempt from the jackpot tax and casino tax which is unheard of in successful casino destinations.

Moreover, one can argue that social, environmental, economic disparity, safety and security, and corruption problems have been in the CNMI long before a new wave of tourism has reached its shores. While that has some truth, who is to argue against doing more to address what appears to be more blatant, more pronounced disregard for laws?

What the CNMI is experiencing now in dealing with a new wave of tourism is just a sample of what's to come, unless the U.S. government halts the visa-waiver program for Chinese and Russian tourists.

Palau cut the number of flights from China to ease the pressure on its environment, its infrastructure and island way of life from a spike in tourist numbers. Palau conceded it simply does not have the infrastructure to cope with soaring visitor numbers so it had to take a stand before it's too late.

Just like the CNMI, Palau has natural attractions that draw tourists to its shores. However, it is also for this reason that Palau has had to limit the number of people visiting the islands.

Unlike Palau which showed the world that new tourism money can be carefully balanced with protecting peoples' wellbeing and environment, the CNMI has yet to chart a direction better than what it has now. As always, it is never too late to make a change for the better and the government always needs the help of community members to make that happen.

FLINT

From Page 10

yes. That's what started this mess. As the Detroit News reported Thursday, emails released by the governor's office show a former state treasurer made "the ultimate decision" to let Flint leave the Detroit water system, acting on a request from Flint officials.

But the cascade of red flags, bad decisions and government inaction since then has endangered tens of thousands of people and is expected to cost the state more than $1.5 billion to fix.

Angry residents say Snyder should've acted sooner to address health concerns and ensure Flint had safe water. The governor didn't publicly acknowledge the problem until October, more than a year after the first complaints.

Relief is coming, slowly, to the people of Flint, who have become dependent on bottled and filtered water for bathing, cooking and drinking — an unheard-of way of life in the United States, where clean, potable water is expected. In recent weeks, the state has stepped up efforts to help Flint. The National Guard is distributing clean water. The Obama administration granted $5 million in federal emergency funding, but denied the governor's request for a more sweeping federal disaster declaration.

The most damning lesson from the emails released by the governor is that for months no one at any level of government owned this disaster. No one created a sense of urgency to save Flint. It was too convenient to think of it as someone else's responsibility, until it was too late. Until the adults and children of Flint had lead coursing through their bodies.

"I'm sorry most of all that I let you down," Snyder said Tuesday, so heartfelt, and so appallingly late.

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DESPAIR

From Page 10

Kent and I kept company for a week. Chewing gum, a smoker's way of mitigating the consequent bad breath, pulled out the bridge that sent me to the dentist's chair. The gum got us more than the tobacco smell.

Having been refused employment by offices that thought I was overly qualified. I offered a political campaign to hold up placards at street corners for pittance. I might even lend my literary skills to cajole folks on their votes, or get them out to vote.

My neighbor continues to make his walk, rain or shine. Nothing against my neighbor but I'll skip the depression pills. We are still both depressed.

Gearshifts on the hill

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

It must be the hangover of a very active era where the final pages turned into final closure recently. Then came a new book we've opened in hopes of gleaning useful information. We did but must have suffered memory loss at the feet of reading deficiency.

There's silence that created a vacuum leaving villagers pondering if anybody's home. Well, the lights are on but let's check if someone's inside is snoozing in the comfy of a huge couch. Maybe the guy slurped heavy bone soup sending him into an instant snore as to forget that there are people in the room.

"With bankruptcy, I'd take a long siesta too!" declared my friend Magoo. "The pile of fiscal obligations slams the brakes instantly what with revenue generation going deep south."

"With a bloated payroll of between 3,000 and 5,000 employees, a pension program that went broke, lack of policy reform to reset buttons, what's there to expect from the JV team?" he asked. Any hope to regain strength and confidence amidst a deepening fiscal crisis? Don't know, it's all

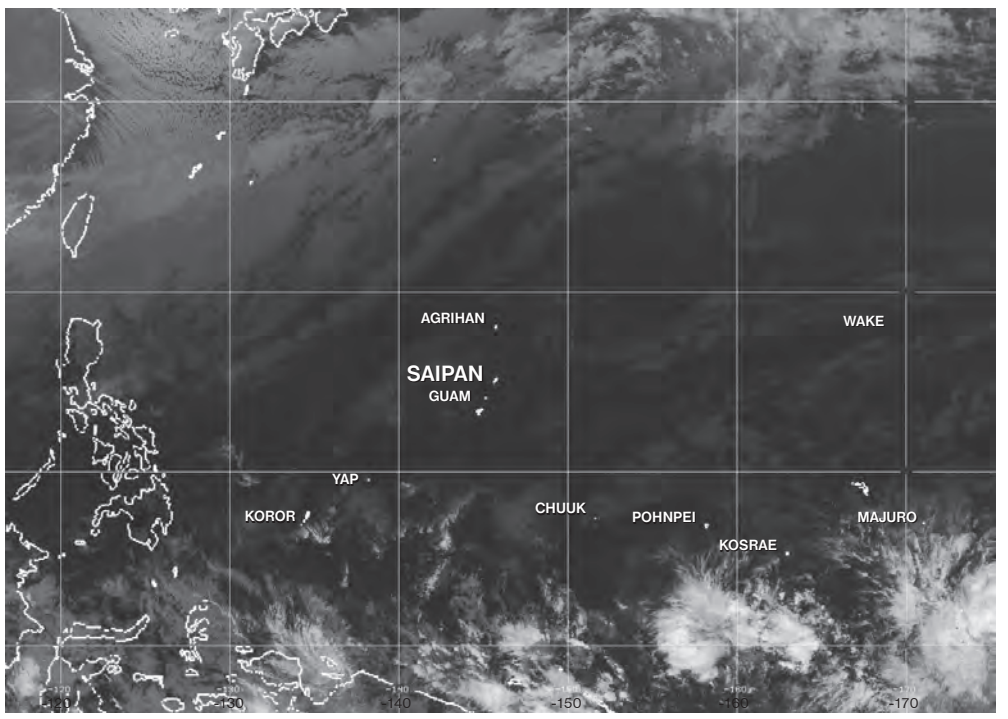
See FLINT on Page 13

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.
▲86º ▼74º	▲85º ▼74º	▲85º ▼74º	▲85º ▼74º	▲86º ▼74º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 26N142E to beyond 130E at 19N. Cloudiness and patchy showers are found southeast of Okinawa or along and northwest of the front to beyond 25N. Another cold front runs southwestward from 25N180 to 20N169 then continues as a weak shear line to end at 16N151E. Cloudiness and patchy showers are found along and up to 160 miles northwest of these features. Converging trade winds are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms equatorward of Yap and Chuuk south of a line from 2N138E to 2N151E farther east. More widespread showers and isolated thunderstorms are present south of Kosrae and the Marshall Islands over Butaritari and Tarawa atolls south of a line from 3N157E to 4N166E to 2N180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼77
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲38	▼13
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲52	▼46
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼44
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲66	▼45
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼71
Melbourne	Showers	▲72	▼58
Miami	Sunny	▲62	▼51
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲35	▼22
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲43	▼32
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲56	▼47
Pusan	Sunny	▲40	▼25
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼40
Salem	Showers	▲47	▼42
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲55	▼48
Seoul	Sunny	▲26	▼16
Tokyo	Sunny	▲45	▼29
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲33	▼10

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:34 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.4 Feet
9:21 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:03 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
8:00 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:15 PM	7:19 AM
Tuesday	8:06 PM	8:03 AM
Wednesday	8:55 PM	8:45 AM
Thursday	9:42 PM	9:25 AM
Friday	10:29 PM	10:03 AM

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 24, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

MU7162	5:10am	08:00am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

MU7161	10:00 pm	5:30am	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

GEARSHIFTS

From Page 11

wait and wait and wait and hopefully see.

There's the initial establishment of the "solutions driven" team comprised of new cabinet people. This takes a process while debts pile up taller than the Puerto Rico Dump. Then give the new team time to get situated and more time to do things as a group. Four to six months from now we could draw reasonable assessment what would eventually be coming down the pike.

If your contract is skipped, ranting and raging isn't going to change the tenor of the decision. Go ahead and intone that beautiful nursery rhyme song most pupils learn in grammar school, Lullaby and Good Night. You might wake up to the morning sun with puffy eyes and stuffy nose but should humbly say that it's the end of that happy journey.

Pictures: Part of profession

One of the highlights of my career as an active journalist was in photography. Trained by the Department of the Navy while in journalism school I've done picture taking for over 30 years in the islands. The Navy is highly reputed for the superb quality of its photos.

We have scenic places, the most colorful sunset, and bright flame tree flowers in May, the golden shores, cultural events, etc. I mean all you need is the sun to set the stage and you're home free to click your 35 SLR camera.

There are natural settings to take pictures that include Taga Stones on Tinian, rare sight of the volcano on Pagan and empty landscape from an eruption in Anatahan, an ancient village on Rota, the panoramic view of beach road; and other beautiful places throughout the region. We have the Rock Islands in Belau, Atolls in Chuuk, Nan Madol in Pohnpei, and rows of coconut trees in the Marshalls.

Photography teases your imagination. I've used small and large lenses for my purposes. You could also use aperture and speed to secure a desired effect, e.g., waves crashing on the reef as it roll down. The roll is what you wish to show. You could basically do anything you want but it's a photographer's galore when you're in paradise. I've documented a lot of events between here, DC, Tokyo, and elsewhere throughout the region. It was a pleasant learning experience!

Scenic Places: Occasionally, I would page through photos admiring nature's unique scenic places worldwide. Not interested in what a metropolis has to offer. My imagination gravitates instantly to huge farmland, seaside, rivers, lakes, savannahs, and volcanic tops.

Perhaps I didn't want anything impeding my vision when I look out to the ocean to see forever or drive a tractor through rows of corn for miles or the perfect panoramic view of the dome descending to our tiny pearly isle. It augurs well with my usual habit looking at issues from the standpoint of the forest over the trees.

I let my imagination run its course. Not sure why the dominant dream of a huge farmland somewhere. Perhaps it's the idea of massive plantations like rows of corn that run and fades into the end of the earth. Is the fascination founded in the notion hailing from a small island where most everything's within reach? Maybe. It must be nice owning one where all my dietary needs are all farm-raised or grown not to mention the healthy daily exercise.

Recalled flying across the country one December on my way to Washington. The entire landscape downstairs was a complete field of white. Wow! I'm sure the folks in frigid weather look forward to spring to welcome fresh air as flower buds begin to poke their way out of tree branches. I've also seen the Japanese flowers in bloom (sakura) facing the Jefferson Memorial that was so splendidly displayed by Mother Nature. What gift of real beauty!

There's also a dream of traversing the seamless wide-open ocean. The ecstasy of everything upfront being open and distant is just pure ecstasy.

There were rivers that run into the deepest part of the ocean. I quiz if the running water isn't replenished via nature's way of recycling. How pleasant though listening to water run-off rolling downhill. I know that with birds winging their last flights home at sunset that it was time to head home. The return of birds at dusk signals the close of another day in paradise.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

INVITATION TO BID
NMHC IFB 2016-004

This ad is paid for with HUD funds.

Renovation of the Rota Fire Station

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor Hocog, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested licensed companies to provide construction services for the renovation of the Rota Fire Station located in Songsong Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning **February 1, 2016** at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or the Rota NMHC Field Office located in Songsong Village, Rota, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays. A non-refundable payment of **Twenty Five Dollars *($25.00) is required for each set.*** Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are also advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. All wage rates for laborers, mechanics and all other employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage or the wage determination for the Commonwealth as specified in CM130001 for the Mariana Islands.

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m. on February 19, 2016**, at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference in Rota, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked **NMHC IFB 2016-004**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill (Former EMO Office), Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, March 04, 2016**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, March 04, 2016** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than March 04, 2016, AND the ITB documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill (Former EMO Office) no later than **March 15, 2016**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill (Former EMO Office), Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, March 16, 2016**. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time, March 04, 2016**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Renovation of the Rota Fire Station". Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable le to the Attorney General.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (US$150.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

For information, contact Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

Edward C. Sablan
NMHC Board Chairman & Contracting Officer

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

INVITATION TO BID
NMHC IFB 2016-005

This ad is paid for with HUD funds.

Renovation of the Sinapalo Baseball Field in Rota

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor Hocog, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested licensed companies to provide construction services for the renovation of the Sinapalo Baseball Field in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning **February 1, 2016** at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or the Rota NMHC Field Office located in Songsong Village, Rota, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays. A non-refundable payment of **Twenty Five Dollars *($25.00) is required for each set.*** Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are also advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. All wage rates for laborers, mechanics and all other employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage or the wage determination for the Commonwealth as specified in CM130001 for the Mariana Islands.

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **2:00 p.m. on February 19, 2016**, at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference in Rota, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked **NMHC IFB 2016-005**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill (Former EMO Office), Saipan, no later than **11:00 a.m., local time, March 04, 2016**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **11:00 a.m., local time, March 04, 2016** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than **March 04, 2016**, AND the ITB documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive no later than **March 15, 2016**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at **11:00 a.m. local time, March 16, 2016**. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at **11:30 a.m., local time, March 04, 2016**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check. Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable le to the Attorney General.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is Two Hundred Ten (210) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (US$100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

For information, contact Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

Edward C. Sablan
NMHC Board Chairman & Contracting Officer

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Nominees for '15 Business Person of the Year announced

Every year, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce accepts nominations for its Business Person of the Year award. Each nominee must be a member of the Chamber and must reside in Saipan. Qualifying criteria includes community involvement and contributions, support for our local workforce, and active participation in the Chamber's meetings, programs and activities. We are pleased to announce the following nominees for this year: Alex Youn of I Love Saipan, Jim Arenovski of Delta Management Corp., Rose Soledad of IT&E, Nola Hix of Xerox, and Jody Jordahl of Bridge Capital.

The nominations will be judged by the prior recipients of this prestigious award. These individuals include: Vicky Benavente of Pacific Islands Club (2014), Marcie Tomokane of Bank of Guam (2013), Anthony Pelligrino of Saipan Sea Ventures (2012), James Arenovski of Delta Management Corp (2011), Robert "Bob" Jones of Triple J Corporation (2010), Vicente "Ben" Babauta of DFS Saipan (2009), Kathryn H. Barry of KB Communications (2008), K.J. Kim of Asiana Airlines (2007), Juan T. Guerrero of Herman's Bakery/MITA Travel (2006), David M. Sablan Sr. of Century Insurance (2005), Mark Erwin of Continental Airlines (2004), Jerry Tan of Tan Holdings (2003), Alex A Sablan of Saipan Shipping Company (2002), Jay B. Jones of Triple J Motors (2001), Wendi S. Herring of Pacific Islands Club (2000), Marian Aldan-Pierce of DFS Saipan (1999), Joe C. Ayuyu of McDonald's of Saipan (1998), Edward Camacho of Pacific Financial Corp (1997), and Efrain F. Camacho of EFC Engineers and Architects (1996).

The winner will be kept secret until the official announcement on Jan. 30 at the Chamber's annual installation dinner. Also on this evening, the 2016 Board of Directors will be sworn in by Judge David Wiseman. The event will be held at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hibiscus Hall, from 6pm to 9pm. Our silent auction fundraiser will feature a large variety of valuable prizes, generously donated by our business members. Proceeds of the auction will support the programs and activities of the Chamber such as our Scholarship program, High School workshops, monthly training seminars, military vessel welcomes, and our Saipan Young Professionals activities.

The Chamber is honored to have Gov. Ralph DLG Torres as its keynote speaker for this event to speak about the changes in the islands, and his hopes and plans for the future.

Seating is limited. Ticket prices are available by advance purchase only and are $60 per person.

The Chamber is a non-profit organization of private businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. Please call us at 234-7150 or visit us on the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe for more information. ***(PR)***

Limited water service in Dandan

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers who receive water from the Dandan reservoir are experiencing limited service due to issues with multiple wells that provide water for the tank.

Five of the wells that pump water to the Dandan reservoir are offline awaiting pump repairs and replacements. Repair personnel will address two of the pumps on Saturday, Jan. 23. The remaining well sites will be addressed once the new shipment of pumps arrives in mid-February. Once the replacement pumps are installed, CUC customers in the affected areas will resume regular water service hours.

In the meantime, customers along Chalan Monsignor Martinez between the Shell station in Dandan to the ABCD market receive water service from 6:15am to 12pm, while customers along Flametree Drive and As Lito Road will receive water from 6am to 12pm, based on the level inside of the tank.

Water service hours in the affected areas were reduced this morning when Operations personnel discovered one of the pumps at the Isley booster station was not working at 6:30am. Repair personnel brought the well online an hour later; however, water levels inside of the tank were low because of the loss of overnight production.

As a result, water service was temporarily interrupted to customers along Chalan Monsignor Martinez between the Shell station in Dandan to the ABCD market, and customers along Flametree Drive and As Lito Road, just after 9am to allow tank levels to recover. Service will resume as scheduled tomorrow morning.

For more information, contact the 24-hour CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/).

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

NMHC EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

INVITATION TO BID
NMHC IFB 2016-001 – Amendment #02

This ad is paid for with HUD funds.

Oleai Sports Complex Track and Field Renovation

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor Hocog, through the Northern Mariana Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies to provide Construction services for the **Renovation of the Oleai Sports Complex Track and Field** in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island.

Prospective Bidders or firms may pick up a set of the Project Package beginning **Wednesday, December 9, 2015** at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (07:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays. Email of the Project package set will be allowed and a non-refundable payment is required. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars ($50.00) is required for each set**. Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are also advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. All wage rates for laborers, mechanics and all other employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage or the wage determination for the Commonwealth as specified in CM130001 for the Mariana Islands.

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 06, 2016**, at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as part of the mandatory pre-bid conference for the prospective bidders to familiarize themselves with the required work. Attendance at this pre-bid conference and site visit are considered essential to the prospective bidders' understanding of the project elements and a prospective bidder or company that does not have a representative in attendance at the mandatory pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 234-9410. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. local time, December 28, 2015

Sealed Bids must be marked **NMHC IFB 2016-001**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Captiol Hill (Former EMO office), Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, Monday, February 1, 2016**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement of Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, **February 1, 2016** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670)664-1515 or via email to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than **Feb 1, 2016** and the ITB documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill (Former EMO Office) no later than **February 10, 2016.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill (former EMO Office), Saipan, at **10:00 a.m., local time, February 11, 2016**. However if no notice of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, the bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time, February 1, 2016.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check. Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is ***One Hundred Fifty (150) working days.*** Liquidated damages will be assessed at ***One Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (US$125.00) per working day*** for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds provided to the commonwealth. This project is also subject to section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968, which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the business that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible".

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

For information, contact Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

Edward C. Sablan
NMHC Board Chairman & Contracting Officer

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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NMHC EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Amendment No. 1
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
OF
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS
FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2016

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated $1,219,232.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of $873,837.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); $278,365.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, $67,030.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2016.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning December 21, 2015. You may also obtain the application via our website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by ***Friday, March 25, 2016, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 25, 2016, will not be accepted.***

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

- ***Saipan: February 16, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Conference Room located in Garapan, Saipan.***
- ***Tinian: February 17, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Field Office located in San Jose, Tinian.***
- ***Rota: February 19, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the Mayor's Office Conference Room located in Tatachog, Rota.***

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at 234-7689 or 234-6866.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Dynamic Air brings media to support charter flights

In support of additional direct charter flights launched this month for the Lunar New Year holiday and other seasonal travel, Dynamic Air and the Marianas Visitors Authority have collaborated on a FAM tour this month with media reps from major cities in China.

The seasonal flights began Jan. 2 from Shenyang, Jan. 5 from Tianjin, and Jan. 14 from Jinan and are expected to generate an additional 11,000 seats through the end of March from these cities in Northern China.

"The significance of these flights is that they are reaching into the second-tier cities of China, making it more convenient for these visitors to get to the Northern Marianas," said MVA Marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "It's a sign of strong demand for the destination."

During their tour on Jan. 6-10, 2016,the media group spent two days on Tinian, where they took visited scenic and historic sites including Carolinas Limestone Forest Trail and Lookout, House of Taga, Tinian Blowhole, Suicide Cliff, San Jose church, Tinian Shrine, and the World War II Atomic Bomb Pits. Tachonga and Kammer Beaches were visited, and the group watched the sunset at Taga Beach. The group went horseback riding and rode buggies, and filming was also conducted at Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

On Saipan, the group toured Marpi, took a jungle tour to Mt. Tapochau, visited Managaha for a day of watersports, and toured downtown Garapan and various shops including T Galleria. They dined at Aqua Resort Club, Kinpachi Restaurant, and the Garapan Street Market and lodged at Hotel Galleria.

The group was comprised of 10 print and online media from major cities in China: Weibo.com, TENCENT, *Beijing Times*, *Air Media*, *Global Times*, *Global Travel*, *Lifestyle*, *SINA*, and *Beijing Youth Weekly*. ***(PR)***

AP

Media representatives from China flash the "hang loose" sign at Sagano Japanese restaurant during their FAM tour of Tinian on Jan. 8, 2016.

Air Force to conduct training at FDM

ASAN, Guam—The Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Jan. 26 and 28 from 10am to 4pm
- Jan. 29 from 7am to 1pm

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear of the area during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides frequent access that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. ***(PR)***

WANTED

NEWS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a FULL-TIME news reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Above average writing skills and can work within deadlines;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.
Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) BAKER
Minimum of three (3) years of related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BUILDING MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR
Minimum of three (3) years of related experience working in a similar role at a hotel, plus one (1) year supervisor experience required. A High School diploma or higher is required. Any combination of education and related work experience will be considered. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) CHEF DE CUISINE
Minimum of three (3) years of relevant working experience in a familiar role for a hotel or resort environment. Experience in preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Must have good knowledge of food preparation, food safety standards and have the ability to train and lead a team. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(4) CHEF DE PARTIE
Minimum of three (3) years working in a similar capacity in a hotel, plus one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must have good management and organizational skills. Must have the ability to work independently and within a team, and have the ability to work well under pressure. Must have excellent communication skills. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

CLUBMATES
Applicants must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test); Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must possess good verbal and written communication skills; Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skill is a plus; Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(12) COOK
Minimum of one (1) year related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) ELECTRICIAN
Minimum of five (5) years work experience. Must be able to work shifts, weekends, and holidays.

(1) GENERAL MAINTENANCE
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience, preferably in a large hotel. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR
Minimum of two (2) years housekeeping supervisor experience required (minimum 300-room hotel). Motivated self starter with the ability to clean rooms as required. Responsible for checking up to 70 rooms per shift. Must have the ability to bend, lift, carry & move items weighing 50 pounds. Ability to operate Rotary and Extraction equipment. Must be proficient in computer office software. Previous experience with Opera software is preferred. Must be able to stand for long excess hours. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(3) LEAD COOK
Minimum of three (3) years experience as a cook. At least one (1) year supervisory experience preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) PUBLIC AREA ATTENDANT
Minimum six (6) months of work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ROOM ATTENDANT – Part Time
Minimum of one (1) year of experience as a room attendant for a hotel. Motivated, self-starter responsible for cleaning up to 18 rooms per shift. Must have the ability to bend, lift, carry & move items weighing 50 pounds. Must be able to stand for long excess hours. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) TEPPANYAKI COOK
Minimum of five (5) years of related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Monday, February 8th, 2016.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Business

Nearly 7,000 weekend flights canceled, and more on the way

Airlines canceled nearly 7,000 weekend flights and started to cut Monday service as the ripple effects of driving snow and ice that brought many East Coast airports to a standstill drifted into the next work week.

The bulk of Saturday's 4,459 cancelations were at airports in the New York City and Washington metro areas, according to flight tracking service FlightAware. Another 2,467 flights were canceled for Sunday, and the count keeps rising.

Flight cancelations for Monday all airlines stood at 320 as of Saturday evening, but FlightAware said that is sure to rise.

As the storm intensified, United Airlines announced it would not operate out of airports in the Washington D.C. area Sunday. Service should gradually resume Monday, the airline said. "Very limited" service would restart Sunday afternoon at airports in the New York City area.

Since Friday, the number of cancelled flights has topped 10,000. Cancelations have centered on Charlotte and Raleigh, North Carolina, Philadelphia, Washington and New York, with airlines essentially shutting down all flights into those cities.

One bit of good news: Saturday is the slowest travel day of the week. There were a little more than 22,000 flights scheduled to, from or within the U.S., according to FlightAware. That's about 5,000 fewer flights—and 400,000 fewer passengers—than Thursday or Friday.

Amtrak also canceled or cut back on service. Several trains scheduled to depart Washington D.C. for New York City were canceled, as was service from Washington to stations in Virginia and the Southeast, according to Amtrak's website.

All major airlines issued waivers for travel over the weekend, allowing passengers to rebook onto earlier or later flights to avoid the storms. The airports included vary by airline but include some cities in Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia all the way up the coast to New Hampshire and Massachusetts. As of late Friday night, American Airlines alone had issued waivers for 42 airports.

Passengers looking to cancel trips should wait until the airline officially calls off the flight. Airlines have been much more proactive in recent years about canceling flights, often doing so up to a day in advance. More travelers are impacted, but they aren't stuck waiting in airports. It also lets airlines restart the system quicker because they have planes and crews in place. ***(AP)***

Govt: 10th death linked to exploding Takata air bags

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Ford pickup driver killed last month in South Carolina is the 9th person to die in the U.S. and the 10th worldwide because of defective Takata air-bag inflators that explode, firing off shrapnel-like shards, government safety officials said Friday, as they announced a new expansion of the largest auto safety recall in history.

Based on the South Carolina accident and tests of a different kind of Takata inflator, an estimated 5 million additional vehicles with potentially defective air bags are being recalled, but that number could change because there may be some overlap with previous recalls, said Gordon Trowbridge, a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration spokesman.

The South Carolina crash occurred in late December when the driver of a 2006 Ford Ranger swerved to avoid an obstacle in the road, ran off the side and struck another obstacle, Trowbridge said. He said he was unable to provide further details of the accident.

The safety administration found out about the accident last week, from an attorney for the victim's family, Trowbridge said. NHTSA investigators, police and family representatives examined the vehicle on Friday morning and were able to confirm the death was due to an exploding air bag inflator, he said.

A woman in Malaysia was also killed by a rupturing Takata air bag last year, the only known fatality outside the U.S. In the U.S., about 23 million Takata air bag inflators have previously been recalled on 19 million vehicles sold by a dozen manufacturers.

Despite the unprecedented size of the Takata air bag recalls, NHTSA expects the number of vehicles recalled to continue to increase, Trowbridge said. He noted that there are probably tens of millions of cars with Takata air bags on the road that have not yet been recalled.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

United Airlines pilots approve 2-year contract extension

CHICAGO (AP)—United Airlines pilots have ratified a contract extension that includes pay raises and gives the company more certainty about labor costs. The Air Line Pilots Association said Friday that 79 percent of pilots who voted agreed to add two years to their contract, making it run through January 2019. United has about 12,000 pilots. Details of the extension aren't being released, but the union says it puts the pilots' compensation at the top of the industry. United says it will create stability for the airline and the pilots. United struggled to combine workforces after its 2010 merger with Continental. New management that took over last September has vowed to improve labor relations. In late afternoon trading, shares of United Continental Holdings Inc. climbed $1.41, or 3.1 percent, to $46.74.

CDC says 1 person dead from listeria linked to Dole salads

NEW YORK (AP)—The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said one person died and about a dozen others were sickened from a listeria outbreak linked to packaged salads made at a Dole processing facility. The salads were made in Springfield, Ohio, the CDC said. Those infected were spread in six states: Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. The CDC said the packaged salads made by Dole are the likely source of the outbreak. The salads are sold under several brands, including Dole, Fresh Selections, Simple Truth, Marketside, The Little Salad Bar and President's Choice. The manufacturing code on the package starts with the letter "A." The CDC says customers should not eat those bags. Dole stopped all production at the Ohio facility on Thursday, the CDC said.

Nation

Blizzard packing hurricane-force winds cripples East Coast

NEW YORK (AP)—A blizzard with hurricane-force winds brought much of the East Coast to a standstill Saturday, dumping as much as 3 feet of snow, stranding tens of thousands of travelers and shutting down the nation's capital and its largest city.

After days of weather warnings, most of the 80 million people in the storm's path heeded requests to stay home and off the roads, which were largely deserted. Yet at least 18 deaths were blamed on the weather, resulting from car crashes, shoveling snow and hypothermia. And more snow was to come, with dangerous conditions expected to persist until early Sunday, forecasters warned.

"This is going to be one of those generational events, where your parents talk about how bad it was," Ryan Maue, a meteorologist for WeatherBell Analytics, said from Tallahassee, Florida, which also saw some flakes.

The system was mammoth, dropping snow from the Gulf Coast to New England. By afternoon, areas near Washington had topped 30 inches. The heaviest unofficial report was in a rural area of West Virginia, not far from Harpers Ferry, with 40 inches.

As the storm picked up, forecasters increased their snow predictions for New York and points north and warned areas nearly as far north as Boston to expect heavy snow.

"This is kind of a Top 10 snowstorm," said weather service winter storm expert Paul Kocin, who co-wrote a two-volume textbook on blizzards.

Air Force withheld nuclear mishap from Pentagon review team

WASHINGTON (AP)—In the spring of 2014, as a team of experts was examining what ailed the U.S. nuclear force, the Air Force withheld from them the fact that it was simultaneously investigating damage to a nuclear-armed missile in its launch silo caused by three airmen.

The Air Force on Friday gave The Associated Press the first substantive description of the accident after being questioned about it by the AP for more than a year.

The accident happened May 17, 2014, at an underground launch silo containing a Minuteman 3 intercontinental ballistic missile, or ICBM. The silo, designated Juliet-07, is situated among wheat fields and wind turbines about 9 miles west of Peetz, Colorado. It is controlled by launch officers of the 320th Missile Squadron and administered by the 90th Missile Wing at F.E. Warren Air Force Base at Cheyenne, Wyoming.

The Air Force said that while three airmen were troubleshooting the missile, a "mishap" occurred, causing $1.8 million in damage to the missile. The service declined to explain the nature of the mishap, such as whether it caused physical damage, saying the information is too sensitive to be made public.

The three airmen were immediately stripped of their certification to perform nuclear weapons duty. The missile was taken offline and removed from its silo. No one was injured and the Air Force said the accident posed no risk to public safety.

More than a year later the three airmen were recertified and returned to duty.

At the time of the accident, a group of nuclear weapons experts was nearing the end of a three-month independent review of the entire U.S. nuclear force, an examination prompted in part by a series of AP stories on troubles within the force. The experts were operating on orders from then-Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, who asked them to begin their review in March. They reported their results to him June 2.

Flint hospital suspected river, Legionnaires' outbreak link

DETROIT (AP)—The head of a Flint hospital that found Legionnaires' disease bacteria in its water system more than a year ago said he and experts suspected the Flint River was a likely source of the contaminant.

Don Kooy, president of McLaren hospital, said he was surprised that Michigan and local health agencies didn't inform the public about a Legionnaires' outbreak in Genesee County in 2014-15 until just a few weeks ago.

The outbreak occurred while Flint residents were repeatedly complaining about dirty tap water coming from the river—a crisis that ultimately caused exposure to lead and other health problems.

"It's a public health issue," Kooy told The Associated Press. "There were people in the city of Flint seeing brown water. It would seem logical that there would have been public reporting or public awareness about the Legionella situation."

At least 87 Legionnaires' cases, including nine deaths, were confirmed across Genesee County during a 17-month period. Public officials say they haven't determined if Flint River water was responsible.

Legionnaires' is a type of pneumonia. The bacteria live in the environment and thrive in warm water. People can get sick if they inhale mist or vapor from contaminated water systems, hot tubs and cooling systems.

Kooy said two cases could have been related to exposure to Legionella bacteria found in the hospital. He said "it's very difficult to know" when a patient is exactly exposed but both patients were successfully treated.

"We were concerned that the city water was the source of it," Kooy said, "but to this day I don't think we could make a definitive statement."

McLaren hospital spent more than $300,000 on a water treatment system and also turned to bottled water for patients.

"The change in (Flint) water quality was a likely factor in causing the increase in Legionnaires' disease" in Genesee County, said Janet Stout, a Pittsburgh microbiologist and Legionella expert who advised the hospital.

World

Kerry off to Asia to address maritime disputes, NKorea nukes

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)_U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is pressing for peaceful resolutions to increasingly tense maritime disputes in Asia and urging China to take a firmer stand on North Korea's nuclear program after its recent bomb test.

Set to leave Saudi Arabia on Sunday, Kerry planned stops in Laos, Cambodia and China, shifting his focus as he wraps up an around-the-world diplomatic mission that began in Switzerland with a heavy emphasis on the Middle East, particularly Iran and efforts to bring an end to Syria's civil war.

His first stop is Laos, the current head of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, whose members are becoming more vocal in complaints about China's growing assertiveness over competing claims in the South China Sea and whose leaders President Barack Obama will host in California next month. Before that summit, U.S. officials say, Kerry will make the case to the leader of the 10-nation bloc to present a unified stance in dealing with China on the disputes, which have grown more intense as China continues to construct man-made islands and airstrips in contested areas.

The United States and governments with rival claims with China in the disputed region, including the Philippines and Vietnam, have expressed alarm over the Chinese construction, saying it raises tensions and threatens regional stability and could violate freedom of navigation and overflight.

But ASEAN unity has not always been possible as China wields great influence among some of its smaller neighbors, such as Cambodia. Cambodia held the ASEAN chair in 2012 and blocked the group from reaching consensus on the South China Sea issue and has frequently sided with China on the matter. A senior State Department official accompanying Kerry in Asia said the U.S. had heard from regional leaders that problems related to Cambodia's chairmanship "left a black mark on ASEAN and are not to be repeated." The official said the U.S. believed that Laos would do a better job in balancing ASEAN interests with China.

Recent developments, including China's movement of an oil rig into a disputed zone and warnings against overflight of what it claims to be its territory, have raised levels of concern in the region to a point where the official said it would be very difficult for an external power like China to manipulate individual ASEAN countries in a way that paralyzes the broader group. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the details of Kerry's visit publicly.

Kerry will be only the second secretary of state to visit Laos since 1955—Hillary Clinton visited in 2012. And Obama will become the first U.S. leader to visit the landlocked nation later this year. Laos has moved away from a communist system in the past two decades, but like its close ally Vietnam, it retains a one-party political system and its government has been criticized for being intolerant of dissent.

Laos was targeted heavily by U.S. bombing during the Vietnam War and still has large amounts of unexploded ordnance littering its countryside. The U.S. has stepped up efforts to help clear Laos of those bombs and Kerry is expected to commit to expanding and upgrading such programs with details to be announced when Obama visits later in 2016, the U.S. official said.

Protests at Greek border after more migrants drown in Aegean

ALEXANDROUPOLIS, Greece (AP)—A day after 46 migrants drowned in a choppy Aegean Sea, protesters demonstrated Saturday at a Greek border town to demand that Greece ease transit restrictions at its heavily militarized border with Turkey.

Most of the 200-kilometer (124-mile) land border between Greece and Turkey is separated by the Evros River - known as the Meric River in Turkey. But a 12.5-kilometer (nearly 8-mile) stretch of land separating the two countries was previously lined with minefields and is now separated by a fence.

The area is guarded with police and military patrols on land and on the river, a network of cameras and a few officers from the European border protection agency, Frontex.

Wearing life vests and foil blankets, the demonstrators chanted "This fence means refugees drown!" as they kicked off two days of protests in the area. They are planning a march Sunday toward the border fence.

"It's vital that the fence is removed. It's because of the fence that refugee families are forced to travel across the Aegean, and people are drowning on a daily basis," said protester Michalis Sopatzoglou, who travelled from the Greek island of Lesbos to join Saturday's rally.

At least 60 people have died in Greek waters this month while trying to cross from Turkey to the Greek islands in poor weather, using unseaworthy boats provided by Turkish smuggling gangs.

High winds on Saturday disrupted plans by Greek Coast Guard divers to search for bodies off the island of Kalymnos, where most of the people in Friday's accidents died.

Iraq seeks more coalition trainers for local police

ABOARD A US MILITARY AIRCRAFT (AP)—Senior U.S. defense and military officials say that Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi is asking the coalition for more police training, particularly for Sunnis who will have to secure Ramadi and other towns once Islamic State militants are ousted.

Abadi specifically asked for more trainers during talks with U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter this week at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland, the officials said.

Aided by coalition airstrikes, Iraqi security forces retook Ramadi last month. Iraq's trained local police then moved in to help secure the town. The local police were able to take over more quickly than initially anticipated, allowing more skilled Iraqi security and counterterrorism forces to move on to other operations, the U.S. officials said.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss publicly the private conversation.

Carter has asked coalition members to beef up their contributions to the fight against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria. And one of the several key priorities is trainers. The issue is particularly critical as security forces retake towns in the largely Sunni areas that are held by IS.

Leaders want to put Sunni local police into the town in order to keep the peace and prevent IS from returning.

Currently the Italian national police are conducting monthlong training sessions for the local police. They mainly receive instruction in basic soldier skills, including marksmanship, patrolling and how to locate and counter hidden explosive devices.

A senior military official said countries such as Spain and Germany also are good at police training.

Officials said that the victory in Ramadi has given Abadi more latitude to seek additional military aid, despite persistent political sensitivities to increasing the coalition's presence in Iraq.

Carter met with a small group of key coalition countries in Paris earlier in the week and is convening a larger meeting of 26 countries next month. Officials are hoping to get some ideas about what countries may be willing to provide at that time.

WORLD BRIEFS

Police charge 17-year-old boy in Canada after 4 shot dead

TORONTO (AP)—A 17-year-old boy was charged with four counts of first-degree murder and seven counts of attempted murder in a mass shooting at a school and home in a remote aboriginal community in western Canada, officials said. Police said the male suspect can't be named under Canada's Youth Criminal Justice Act. Royal Canadian Mounted Police Supt. Grant St. Germaine said nine people were shot in the school, including a female teacher's aide who died at the scene and a male teacher who died in a hospital. He said seven people wounded in Friday's shooting at the school are hospitalized. Two brothers, 17-year-old Dayne Fountaine and 13-year-old Drayden, were shot and killed in a home before the gunman headed to the grade 7-12 La Loche Community School, police said. Police responded to a call of shots fired at the school shortly after the lunch hour. Royal Canadian Mounted Police Commanding Officer Brenda Butterworth-Carr said when officers arrived at the school they saw the front door had been shot open. They entered the school, spotted the suspect and gave chase before apprehending him. He is due in court next week.

Nicaragua: 13 Costa Ricans killed when tourist boat capsizes

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP)—A tourist boat carrying more than 30 people capsized in bad weather off the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua on Saturday, killing 13 passengers, authorities said. Mario Berrios, the Nicaraguan navy's commander for the southern Caribbean region, said the dead were all Costa Rican nationals who were traveling aboard the Reina del Caribe, Spanish for "Caribbean Queen." The vessel went down amid rain and strong winds as it was ferrying between the Corn Islands, a popular tourist destination. Berrios said that of the 32 passengers on the boat, 25 were Costa Ricans, four were Americans and three were Nicaraguans. He added that most of the 13 dead were women. The other 19 passengers were rescued. "This is a great tragedy, truly painful, because they were our Costa Rican, Central American brothers and sisters who were vacationing in the waters of the Nicaraguan Caribbean," government spokeswoman Rosario Murillo told the official media portal El 19 Digital.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION PRIVATE
As of December 11, 2015

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Blue Lagoon Realty	12/04/2015 SSm-2015-X-085	Renovation & Perimeter Fence	San Antonio	Shoreline	Approved, 12/22/2015
2. Good Day Saipan	12/15/2015 SS/LR/CHm-2015-X-086	Filming & Photography	Puerto Rico	Shoreline	Approved, 12/22/2015*
3. CUC	12/18/2015 SPI-2015-X-087	Fuel Farm Shelter	Puerto Rico	Ports & Industrial	Approved, 12/22/2015*
4. Pacific Marine Ent., Inc.	12/18/2015 SPI-2015-X-088	Drydock	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial	Approved, 12/22/2015
5. Pacific Subsea Saipan, Inc.	12/21/2015 SPI-2015-X-090	Drydock	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial	Approved, 12/22/2015*
6. Aron Corp.	11/12/2015 SPI-2015-X-091	Land Clearing	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial	Approved, 01/04/2016*
7. Marianas Enterprises Ltd.	12/29/2015 SW-2015-X-092	Soil Investigation	Tanapag	Wetland	Approved, 01/08/2016*
8. PQ Corporation	12/29/2015 SS-2015-X-078	Car Wash &Car Rental Office	Chalan Laulau	Wetland	Approved, 01/08/2016*
9. Saipan Sunset Cruise Inc.	01/19/2016	In-Water Vessel Maintenance	Outer Cove Marina	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*

§15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulation requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Focus

Longtime rivals: A look at complex Vietnam-China ties

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING (AP)—Divided opinions within Vietnam's Communist Party on how to relate to giant neighbor and one-time ally China are among key factors in play at an eight-day congress to choose new leadership. A look at the countries' shared history and some most recent ups and downs in relations.

LONGTIME RIVALS

Vietnam and China have a complex relationship going back more than 2,000 years, including several periods of Chinese imperial occupation that were ended by Vietnamese uprisings. Despite its early support for the Vietnamese Communist Party, China invaded in 1979 in retaliation for Hanoi's overthrow of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. Diplomatic ties were restored in 1991, but tensions have risen in recent years due to competing claims to islands and reefs in the South China Sea.

KEEPING WATCH

China is closely observing the party congress and has emphasized the importance of China-Vietnam relations, including $90 billion in bilateral trade last year. "As a good neighbor, friend, comrade and partner to Vietnam, we wish to advance the overall strategic relationship into a new stage on the basis of long-term stability, forward thinking and good neighborliness," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said Friday. "We also wish to work with Vietnam to appropriately control maritime disputes with Vietnam so as to safeguard the maritime stability."

AP

In this Nov. 5, 2015 file photo, Chinese President Xi Jinping, left, and Vietnamese Communist Party Secretary General Nguyen Phu Trong wave at well-wishers as they leave a welcome ceremony at the presidential palace for the headquarters of the Vietnamese Communist Party for official talks in Hanoi.

OIL RIG DISPUTE

In May 2014, China parked a huge oil drilling platform off the Vietnamese coast in an area where the two countries' exclusive economic zones overlap. Vietnam furiously denounced the move and sent fishing boats and coast guard vessels to harass the rig and nearby Chinese vessels. Skirmishes led to collisions and the capsizing of at least one Vietnamese boat, while in Vietnam anti-Chinese rioting and the looting of Chinese and other foreign-owned factories left at least four Chinese citizens dead.

CHINA'S OUTREACH

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi visited Vietnam in June 2014 to try to contain the oil rig dispute. Despite receiving a frosty reception from Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, escalation was avoided. More significantly, the oil rig incident nudged Vietnam closer to its old enemy the United States, which later that year partially lifted an arms embargo specifically to help improve Vietnam's maritime security.

COMPETING CLAIMS

China withdrew the rig in July 2014, one month ahead of schedule, saying it had completed its mission. The confrontation is widely seen as part of a Chinese strategy to strengthen its footprint in the South China Sea, all or part of which is also claimed by Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei. The incident also focuses renewed attention on a perceived split within the Vietnamese Communist Party between pro- and anti-China factions.

VIETNAM VISITS

Following a prolonged chill, Communist Party chief Nguyen Phu Trong (pronounced NEW-yen FOO CHONG) led a delegation to Beijing in April 2015 and was greeted by President Xi Jinping with full military honors at the Great Hall of the People. Though little of substance resulted from the four-day trip visit, it is seen as helping get relations back on track.

MENDING TIES

China's Xi made a state visit to Vietnam in November 2015, during which he and Trong agree to limit their differences and maintain peace and stability. Xi said China will "strive together with Vietnam to control differences at sea." Trong proposed that neither side take actions that increase tensions. During the visit, about 30 people protested briefly in front of the Chinese Embassy in Hanoi. Xi also addressed Vietnam's National Assembly, but avoided mentioning the South China Sea and the 1979 war.

TENSIONS RENEWED

Vietnam protested to China in January over a test flight to a new airstrip on one of Beijing's man-made island in the disputed Spratly Islands. Vietnam Foreign Ministry spokesman Le Hai Binh demanded an end to such flights, saying they violate Vietnam's sovereignty and hurt bilateral relations. China responded that the flights fall "completely within China's sovereignty." Days later, China conducted two more test flights. The South China Sea dispute looks only to grow more complex as China completes infrastructure on its newly created islands and boosts its maritime defense forces beyond anything its rival claimants can muster.

AP

In this Jan. 6, 2016, file photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, a China Southern Airlines jetliner lands at the airfield on Fiery Cross Reef, known as Yongshu Reef in Chinese, in the Spratly Islands, known as Nansha Islands in Chinese, of the South China Sea. Divided opinions within Vietnam's Communist Party on how to relate to giant neighbor and one-time ally China are among key factors in play at an eight-day congress to choose new leadership.

Health & Fitness

Older adults work toward fitness goals

By GERI GIBBONS
THE TIMES-LEADER

At 65, Charlene Grady is having the time of her life.

Young-at-heart by any measure, Grady enjoys music, community events, walks in the park and time with friends and family.

A recent afternoon found her grasping a foam "noodle" and colorful water weights during a Water Fitness class at the Wilkes-Barre YMCA.

Grady, whose participation in the program is made possible by the Area Agency on Aging's Prime Time Health, said the program has enabled her to become increasingly fit, to maintain movement and balance and to make new friends.

Having participated in the class for about two years now, Grady invites friends to stop by.

"Three of those here tonight are here because I've invited them," she said. "I want to get the word out."

Joanne Wynn, 67, is one of those friends. Having attended for only a few weeks, Wynn already feels better.

"I'm a newbie," she said, "but I'm loving it."

Thankful for the fitness opportunities retirement has provided her, Wynn said the workout is challenging but doable.

"It's a vigorous workout," said Grady. "But if you can't do something, it's okay. The instructor continues to encourage you to keep going."

Grady and Wynn were joined in the pool by about a dozen others, of all ages.

Both easily kept up with those up to 30 years their juniors.

The Prime Time Health program offers funding for a variety of other programs at the YMCA for those over 50 years of age.

Paula Gozikowski, Prime Time Health coordinator, said, in addition to burning calories and helping seniors stay fit, many of the funded activities assist in maintain and building balance.

"Balance is so important for productive, active lives," said Gozikowski.

The program's Tai Ji Quan instruction specifically addresses balance.

Consisting of eight routines geared to postural control, daily functioning and rehabilitation, the evidence-based program is offered in hour-long sessions for 24 weeks. Funded by the state of Pennsylvania, the program is data driven and responsive to senior needs.

"It's a program that gets measurable results," said Gozikowski. "That's why we are so excited about it."

Many Prime Time Heath programs take place at Wilkes-Barre's YMCA but some take seniors into the community to reinforce a variety of activities.

Senior centers across the area sponsored by the agency also provide programming specifically geared to get attendees up and moving.

For seniors feeling a bit adventurous, a ski clinic is available free of charge during the winter months, helping seniors on the slopes. The clinic, for those over 55 years of age, is offered at Jack Frost ski area and also addresses safety and nutrition.

Gozikowski stressed that aging brings with it a variety of opportunities, many available through the Prime Time Health program.

"It's so important to remain active throughout the lifespan," she said. "It enhances the quality of life and helps people stay in touch with others."

Fitness trends for 2016 include high intensity, wearable technology

By ELIZABETH SIMPSON
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

My exercise routine goes something like this:

Go outside. Run for 30 minutes. Come back.

It's simple and cheap. I don't think there's a book deal in the works for me.

Despite this, I enjoy keeping up with the newest fitness trends. The American College of Sports Medicine does an annual survey of thousands of health and fitness professionals to gauge the hottest trends. Some of the highlights this year:

High-intensity interval training. Wearable technology that tracks your heart rate and other health data. And, in the what's-old-is-new category, using your body weight to train, such as squats and push-ups.

A new gym in Virginia Beach combines several of these trends. Fit36 opened in Virginia Beach in December. The concept, which started at a gym in Colorado, is to get a complete workout in 36 minutes flat.

You run through 12 stations, twice, exercising at each station for a minute before taking a 30-second rest and rotating to the next station.

The stations include aerobic exercises—like cycling, rowing, jumping rope—and strength training using weights and bands and ropes. Trainers give one-on-one advice in a class setting. Once you master the moves, they change things up. The idea is to keep your body adapting to new moves and levels of intensity to improve overall conditioning and keep calorie-burning at high levels.

Basically, push yourself to the max, in a safe environment.

Another component of the Fit36 gym is something that's catching fire at gyms across the country. Your heart rate, measured by a sensor across your chest, can be displayed on an overhead panel so you and your trainer can see how hard you're working. You go from low-level gray to a maximum red. You can also see how you compare to other people in the class.

Simpson

That's some serious working out there. I'm not sure my ego is ready for that.

SoulCycle, a hot new exercise program mostly in New York, uses the same concept in a group-biking setting, and Orangetheory Fitness, popular in New York and D.C., also displays heart rates with the idea that kicking up your metabolic rate leads to a longer period of calorie burning.

All the talk about high-intensity workouts left me feeling like a slacker. I called David Swain, a professor of exercise science at Old Dominion University, to see what he thought.

His exercise advice is this: Find what works for you, and what you are likely to stick with over the long haul. And also think about what you're trying to achieve and build your workout routine to that. For instance, it makes a difference whether you want to lose weight or maintain weight. Whether you're motivated by being around others or by using exercise to get away from it all.

While he said running is a fine exercise, if I want to improve my agility and increase my muscle strength -- both important to baby boomers like myself—I should add some strength training to build muscle and calisthenics to improve my flexibility. Another type of exercise, say tennis, could improve my coordination and balance.

Swain said the high-intensity interval training has been popular for a quite a while now, with CrossFit being one of the more popular brands of the concept. Runners can achieve some of the same benefit by running hard for three to five minutes, then taking a slower pace, then back to high intensity again.

But it's all about what works for the individual and adapting over time. The Fit36 model would appeal to people who like group settings, personal trainer advice, tracking their progress and pushing themselves to the max in 36 minutes.

I was curious about the exercise regime of someone who has spent decades studying exercise, so I asked Swain to share his routine.

Swain, 62, used to be a runner until a knee injury waylaid that activity. So now he walks uphill on a treadmill for an hour to get his cardiac exercise, several times a week, and then he also throws in a hike. He likes a challenge to build his training around, so he's hiking Mount Kilimanjaro this year.

He shares, though, that his wife's routine is similar to what I do, in that she sticks with one she's had for years.

Some people thrive on trying new types of exercise, whether it be Zumba or CrossFit or SoulCycle. And that's great as long as you keep doing something. As Swain puts it: Any activity is better than sitting on the sofa.

Eddie Sanchez, the owner of the Fit36 franchise in Virginia Beach, said a wide range of customers have signed up so far for that exercise model, both the fit and the unfit. People like the idea of doing a full workout in 36 minutes and also being with a group of others who are urging one another on in a fun setting: "A lot of times, exercise isn't fun for people, and we want to change that."

Why single mothers may need a nap

By KAREN KAPLAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Who are the most sleep-deprived people in America? Federal researchers say the answer is clear: single mothers.

A new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention finds that 44 percent of single moms living with children under the age of 18 fall short of recommendations to get at least seven hours of shut-eye each night.

Single dads who live with their kids fare a little better—38 percent of them sleep less than seven hours per night.

Overall, single parents had the worst odds of getting a good night's sleep. But couples with children in their homes also suffered in the sleep department—33 percent of them slept less than seven hours per night, compared with 31 percent of adults who didn't live with kids. That difference, while small, was statistically significant.

Although single moms were more sleep-deprived than single dads, the reverse was true for moms and dads living with their nuclear families. The report found that 34 percent of these dads got less than seven hours of slumber, compared with 31 percent of moms. This small difference was also statistically significant.

Single parents also had the most trouble falling asleep and staying asleep, according to the report. Researchers found that 24 percent of single moms and 17 percent of single dads said they had trouble falling asleep at least four times a week. That compares with 14 percent of moms and 10 percent of dads who live together.

In addition, 28 percent of single moms and 19 percent of single dads had trouble staying asleep four or more times a week. They were joined by 21 percent of moms and 13 percent of dads who lived with their partners.

However, couples living with children were better off in these respects than adults without kids in their homes. According to the report, 19 percent of these women had trouble falling asleep and 24 percent of them had trouble staying asleep at least four times a week. For men, 13 percent had trouble falling asleep and 18 percent had trouble staying asleep at least four times a week.

In each type of family, women were more likely than men to report difficulty falling and staying asleep a majority of the time.

All of this troubled sleep made a difference in the morning. Fully half of single parents living with kids—including 52 percent of single moms and 40 percent of single dads—did not feel well rested four or more days a week.

USA SNAPSHOTS©
Volunteers' verve
3 in 4
agree volunteerism is a bang-up way to get physically fit.
Source The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society survey of 1,022 U.S. adults
TERRY BYRNE AND JANET LOEHRKE, USA TODAY

Life & Style

Braxton explores her career—the good and bad—in TV movie

NEW YORK (AP)—Toni Braxton has opened her life to the cameras on the WEtv reality series "Braxton Family Values," but she's exploring more of her past in a Lifetime movie debuting Saturday.

"Toni Braxton: Unbreak My Heart," named after one of her Grammy-winning hits, takes a look at the 48-year-old singer's career, which spans 23 years.

The TV movie (airing at 8 p.m. EST), which she executive-produced, stars Lex Scott Davis as Braxton.

"I think it's important that when I'm telling my story ... I wanted to be honest with myself. Not only did people hurt me, but I hurt people, too," she said in a recent interview.

"And I wanted them to go along with me during my struggle. I wanted them to feel like they were sitting right there beside me through all the ups and downs."

Braxton released her self-titled debut in 1993 with the help of Babyface and L.A. Reid. The album reached 8x platinum status, winning three Grammy Awards, including best new artist for Braxton. Her follow-up, 1996's "Secrets," won two Grammys and was also certified 8x platinum.

AP

In this Feb. 22, 2015 file photo, Toni Braxton arrives at the 87th Academy Awards - 2015 Elton John AIDS Foundation Oscar Party in West Hollywood, Calif.

But despite her pop-star success, she's filed for bankruptcy multiple times.

"The (first) contract I signed, if I could do it all over again, I would do it again," Braxton said by phone from Los Angeles. "I think what we show in the movie is that once I had success, I was still governed by the old contract and it's supposed to change. ... I did get some bumps and some raises, but it was so minimal and it wasn't reflected on the sales" of her albums.

Braxton said she grew emotional watching her story unfold on the screen. She has appeared in film, TV and on Broadway; has battled lupus; and is an avid advocate for autism research (her son Diezel has autism).

"It was surreal," said the singer, who released her memoir, "Unbreak My Heart," in 2014. "Overall, I'm proud of myself that I survived those things."

Braxton said she was honest with her story and tried not to tell other people's stories in the process of making the two-hour TV movie.

"I think it's very important in any business that, especially in our business, to guard secrets. Sometimes while you're telling your story you tell other people's stories, and a lot of things happened that I would never feel comfortable talking about—ever, ever," she said. "So that was the most challenging part, even writing the book, once it was in black and white, you know, there were some stories that needed to be completed, but we can't talk about that.

"But overall, the story is 100 percent accurate on my part, what happened to me, that part of it."

DeVito shines in Solondz's dark, twisted 'Wiener-Dog'

AP

Actor Danny DeVito poses at the premiere of "Wiener-Dog" during the 2016 Sundance Film Festival on Friday, Jan. 22, 2016, in Park City, Utah.

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Imagine Danny DeVito walking down the street with a dachshund bedecked in a yellow polka-dot dress. To be clear, the dachshund is wearing the dress, not DeVito.

In any other film, it would be an obvious joke. But this is a Todd Solondz movie, and, thus nothing plays out as you might expect. Everything in "Wiener-Dog" is both funny and tragic, heartbreakingly sincere and laced with stomach-knotting cynicism, and it's perfect.

The film, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival on Friday, was said to be a sort of spiritual sequel to Solondz's "Welcome to the Dollhouse," but Solondz warned before the Festival that those looking for a sequel might be "a little disappointed."

Indeed, though "Welcome to the Dollhouse's" Dawn Wiener does reappear for a segment (played this time by Greta Gerwig, not Heather Matarazzo), "Weiner-Dog" is not a sequel by any means. It's a series of loosely connected vignettes following a toffee-colored dachshund around from owner to owner.

There's the young only child of a wealthy, unhappy family (Tracy Letts and Julie Delpy), there's a grown Dawn Wiener who goes on a road trip with an old classmate (Kieran Culkin), there's a depressive screenwriter/professor (DeVito), and there's an elderly grump (Ellen Burstyn) and her troubled granddaughter (Zosia Mamet).

The stories are each distinct, hilarious and distressing in their own ways, and they get progressively experimental.

All are wonderful, but it's the DeVito one that really stands out from the pack in its excellence. DeVito plays Dave Schmerz, a film school professor and failing screenwriter (he had one big-ish movie made, "Apricots!" but has been struggling for decades to sell another). DeVito's deep, existential distress is deeply felt and expertly conveyed. It's a riveting performance and a terribly smart little story that feels like a full feature in and of itself.

"Wiener-Dog" looks incredibly beautiful, too, thanks in part to the cinematography stylings of the great Ed Lachman (Oscar-nominated this year for "Carol").

Solondz continues to be one of the most distinctive, original filmmakers of his generation, and "Wiener-Dog" will make you laugh, cry, and seriously wonder about the point of it all.

What other filmmaker could get away with a long, slow beautiful tracking shot of doggie doo set to "Clair de Lune?" I wouldn't even want anyone else to try.

Matt Damon brings call for clean water for all to Sundance

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—The water contamination crisis in Flint, Michigan, is something millions of people across the globe experience every day.

Actor Matt Damon and Gary White, co-founders of the nonprofit Water.org, came to the Sundance Film Festival on Saturday to call attention to the desperate need for clean water in impoverished regions around the world.

"Imagine this outrage we feel about Flint - this justified outrage, I should say, because that should never happen in the United States of America, ever," Damon said in an interview with The Associated Press. "But there are people for whom life is such a desperate struggle, that they're faced every day with the choice of giving their children dirty water or no water at all."

Damon and White appeared alongside Todd Allen of Stella Artois to discuss the global water crisis and to announce their "Buy a Lady a Drink" campaign - so named because water shortages disproportionately affect women, who spend hours each day searching for water for their families.

The beer maker is introducing a limited-edition collection of decorated glass chalices representing water-poor countries such as Ethiopia, Haiti, India and Honduras. The sale of each $13 goblet will provide a woman in one of these countries with five years of clean water.

AP

Actor Matt Damon, co-founder of Water.org, takes part in a panel discussion on the global water crisis during the 2016 Sundance Film Festival on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016, in Park City, Utah.

The partnership began last year and has provided water for 290,000 people so far, Allen said.

"Obviously, we're hoping to do even better this year," Damon said. Some 663 million people around the world lack access to clean drinking water.

The water crisis in Flint shows how heartbreaking and horrifying life without clean water is, Damon said. He recalled a trip to Ethiopia several years ago where he witnessed schoolchildren filling bottles with water "the color of chocolate milk." Their parents knew the water would make the children sick, but without it, they would have nothing to drink.

"I have four daughters," Damon said. "When you start having kids, it's hard not to see other kids as your own ... It's incumbent upon me to do whatever I can within my sphere of influence" to help.

Though Christian Bale's character in the Oscar-nominated film "The Big Short" bet on water as the hottest future commodity, White said enough clean water exists to satisfy the thirst and needs of everyone on the planet.

"It just becomes where is the water and where are the people, and where are the financial resources to be able to treat it and move it," he said. "The water is there, but it's the finance—it's poverty that's keeping us from solving the problems."

'The Big Short' wins Producers Guild's top trophy

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Star-studded financial crisis comedy "The Big Short" gained some Oscar equity Saturday night, receiving the Producers Guild of America's highest film award at a ceremony in Los Angeles.

Many of the PGA's 7000 members are also Oscar voters and for the past eight years, the guild's choices for its top trophy went on to win the best-picture prize at the Academy Awards.

Other films that were up for the PGA's top honor this year included "Bridge of Spies," ''Brooklyn," ''Ex Machina," "Mad Max: Fury Road," ''The Martian," ''The Revenant," ''Sicario," ''Spotlight" and "Straight Outta Compton."

There has never been an Oscar best picture winner that hasn't also been on the PGA's list of best picture nominees since the guild started handing out awards in 1990.

Matt Damon says Hollywood must do more to support diversity

Oscar producer: Rock rewriting Oscar monologue

AP

In this Feb. 28, 2015, file photo, Chris Rock appears onstage at Comedy Central's "Night of Too Many Stars: America Comes Together for Autism Programs" at the Beacon Theatre in New York.

Academy Awards producer Reginald Hudlin says host Chris Rock is hard at work rewriting his material for next month's Oscar show.

Hudlin told "Entertainment Tonight" on Saturday that Rock is eager to host the 88th Academy Awards on Feb. 28, even as a few black celebrities have decided not to attend the show for its lack of diversity.

Hudlin said Rock had written a draft for the show, but threw it out and started anew as "things got a little provocative and exciting."

He said he expects Rock to make jokes about the OscarsSoWhite hashtag, and that the film academy welcomes such humor.

Hudlin said he's confident Rock's material "will deliver something that people will be talking about for weeks." ***(AP)***

Spike Lee lauds academy changes, still plans to skip Oscars

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Spike Lee applauds the Academy for making changes to increase diversity in its ranks, but he is still skipping the Oscars.

"We have principles," Lee said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I commend the Academy for what they've done. But that does not change our mind. The Knicks will be victorious—I hope. I'll be at the Garden."

After last week's Oscar nominations revealed an all-white slate of acting nominees for the second consecutive year, Lee said he would skip the Feb. 28 Academy Awards and go to the Knicks game instead.

"My wife and I will be in my courtside seats," he said.

Still, he praised Academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs and the organization's board of governors for "trying to do the right thing."

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Friday that it would double the number of its female and minority members by 2020 and implemented other changes aimed at increasing diversity among the largely white and male organization.

Lee thinks the changes could help: "It's a start."

The filmmaker is at the Sundance Film Festival this week to premiere his new documentary, "Michael Jackson's Journey from Motown to 'Off the Wall.'"

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Matt Damon says the movie business has "a long, long, long way to go" when it comes to diversity.

Hollywood must do "much, much, much more" to reflect the audiences who watch movies, the best actor nominee told The Associated Press on Saturday.

"We're talking about huge systemic injustices around race and gender that are a lot bigger than the Oscars," Damon said. "They're massive issues in our industry and in our country."

Diversity has dominated the conversation around the Academy Awards since last week's nominations revealed a second consecutive year of all-white acting nominees. On Friday, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced sweeping changes that include doubling its female and minority members by 2020.

Damon said the move is "a wonderful first step."

"But that's what it is," he said. "A first step."

AP

Luciana Barroso, left, and Matt Damon arrive at the 21st annual Critics' Choice Awards at the Barker Hangar on Sunday, Jan. 17, 2016, in Santa Monica, Calif.

Julie Delpy apologizes for comments about African Americans

AP

Actress Julie Delpy poses for a portrait to promote the film, "Wiener-Dog", at the Toyota Mirai Music Lodge during the Sundance Film Festival on Friday, Jan. 22, 2016 in Park City, Utah.

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Julie Delpy has apologized for recent comments saying that there is nothing worse than being a woman in the entertainment business.

In a Friday interview with "The Wrap," the actress said that she "sometimes wished she were African American because people don't bash them afterwards." She was referencing a time when she complained about the Academy being very male and white two years ago and was harshly criticized for her views.

Her comments on Friday were viewed as inflammatory by many and came after the Academy announced plans to increase the diversity of its membership.

In a statement to EW.com, Delpy said that she never meant to diminish injustices to African American artists or anyone else and that she can't stand inequality or injustice of any kind.

Husband worried about wife's cheating needs reality check

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married seven years and have two beautiful children. Overall, the time we have been together has been wonderful, although we do sometimes argue.

On more than one occasion, my husband has shared his concern that I am cheating on him. I have never been unfaithful, nor have I ever given him any reason to think I would be. He's worried because he knows my father was unfaithful to my mother many years ago. We both learned about it because my mother shared it while discussing my brother and his wife.

Having had no prior knowledge of this period in my parents' lives, I was shocked. I didn't grow up around it and was never taught that cheating is OK. How can I get my husband to stop putting me in the same category as my father?

He says he read that cheating is hereditary so I'm bound to do it. He throws the same accusation at me any time he gets upset with me. It's starting to affect my hope for our future because I don't think he will ever trust that I love him and don't plan to commit adultery.

NOT LIKE DEAR OLD DAD

DEAR NOT LIKE DEAR OLD DAD: I don't know where your husband "read" that adultery is hereditary, but it's time you asked to see the source of his misinformation because it's wrong. You are not responsible for your father's behavior, and for your husband to imply that because your father strayed you will is, frankly, insulting.

If you are accused of infidelity any time there's a disagreement, you two aren't getting to the root of what's really wrong in your marriage, and it's time to get professional marriage counseling.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: We just hosted the family for our annual post-Christmas get-together. My brother-in-law's girlfriend of many years was on her cellphone during the cocktail hour, the entire dessert course and the gift exchange. When I mentioned to my husband how rude she was, he told me she had been checking football scores and cheering/commenting while my daughter was playing the violin song her ensemble had played for the holiday concert.

I never answer my phone when I'm entertaining guests because they are where my attention should be. My daughters have been taught that it's rude to be on the phone during dinner and when guests are over.

How can I nip this in the bud without causing a rift with my brother-in-law, whom I love dearly? If "Pseudo Auntie" does not want to socialize with the people she has been invited to be with, she should stay home.

OFFENDED IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR OFFENDED: I agree with you that "Pseudo Auntie's" behavior was rude, and I don't blame you for feeling upset about it. I do not think that it should cause a rift if you were to tell your brother-in-law and his girlfriend that using her cellphone during the dinner you worked so hard to prepare, and during your daughter's violin recital, caused hurt feelings. And tell them that in the future you would like her to leave her phone elsewhere during family gatherings in your home.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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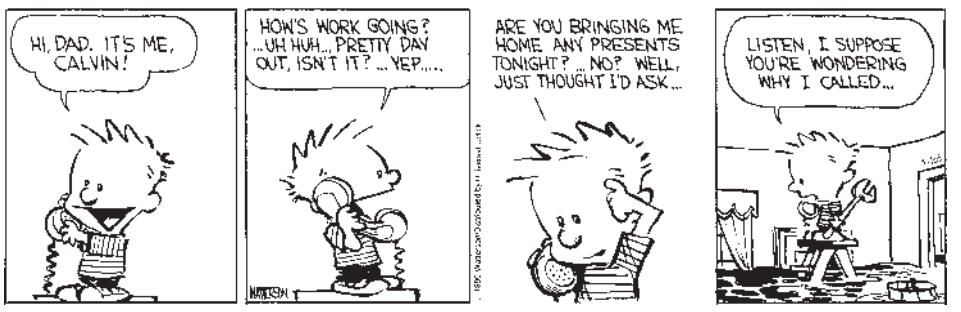
Pastimes

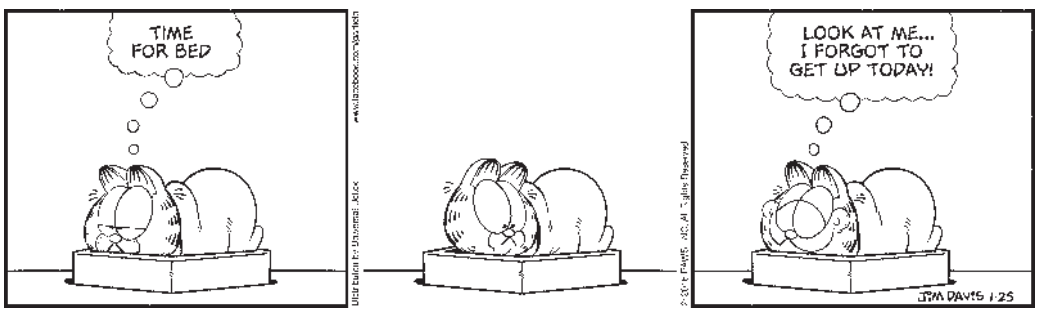
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HI, DAD. IT'S ME, CALVIN!
HOW'S WORK GOING? ...UH HUH... PRETTY DAY OUT, ISN'T IT? ... YEP.....
ARE YOU BRINGING ME HOME ANY PRESENTS TONIGHT? ... NO? WELL, JUST THOUGHT I'D ASK...
LISTEN, I SUPPOSE YOU'RE WONDERING WHY I CALLED...

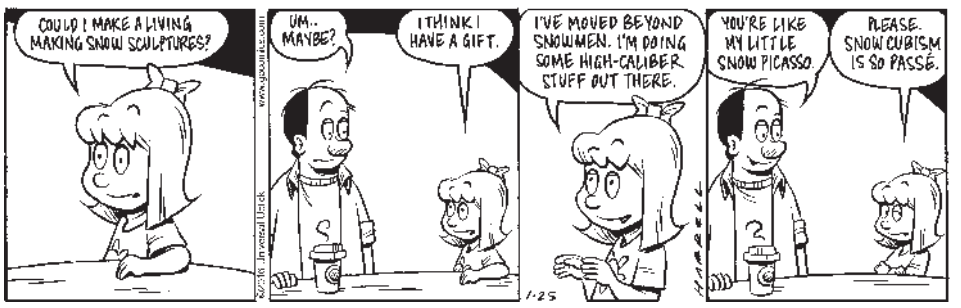
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


COULD I MAKE A LIVING MAKING SNOW SCULPTURES?
UM.. MAYBE?
I THINK I HAVE A GIFT.
I'VE MOVED BEYOND SNOWMEN. I'M DOING SOME HIGH-CALIBER STUFF OUT THERE.
YOU'RE LIKE MY LITTLE SNOW PICASSO.
PLEASE. SNOW CUBISM IS SO PASSÉ.
1-25

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

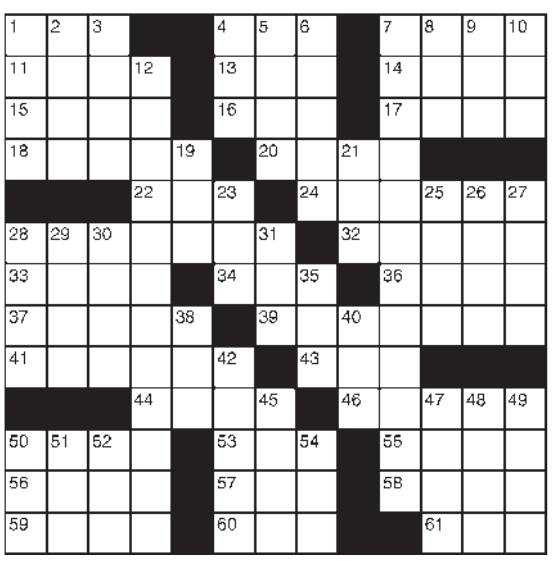
ACROSS
1 Cave flier
4 Lob's path
7 Sir's counterpart
11 Love god
13 — canto
14 Opera set in Egypt
15 Molecule part
16 Baltic, e.g.
17 Diagnostic photo
18 Unwind
20 Make a sketch
22 Edge
24 Spotted wildcat
28 Hitchcock thriller
32 Walk through puddles
33 Actor Baldwin
34 "— Miniver"
36 Singer Falana
37 Trifling
39 Solar phenomenon
41 Local dialect
43 Pop's mate
44 Oddball
46 Ming things
50 Japanese volcano
53 Eggy quaff
55 Lopsided win
56 Buffalo's lake
57 At all
58 Whig's rival
59 Uses a trowel
60 Aries
61 Foot digit

DOWN
1 Grizzly
2 Museo display
3 Adz or awl
4 Tummy muscles
5 Oboe insert
6 Mild cigar
7 TV spy played by Don Adams
8 Melody
9 Oklahoma town
10 Cape —, N.J.
12 Clever folks
19 Noon, to Cato
21 Apt. coolers
23 "Ben-Hur" studio
25 Aerial stunt
26 Norway's capital
27 "Name — Tune"
28 Siren
29 Charles Lamb's alias
30 Monthly check
31 Surgery ctrs.
35 Total
38 "Road to —"
40 Voting mo.
42 Sub detector
45 Hawaiian coast
47 Flue grime
48 French money
49 Eyelid sore
50 Nourished
51 Mr. Geller
52 Springy dance
54 Exercise room

Solution time: 26 mins.

W	A	F	T	S	■	E	I	N	■	H	A	S
A	R	L	E	N	■	N	R	A	■	U	G	H
S	I	A	H	E	■	C	A	P	E	M	A	Y
■	■	G	R	A	T	■	S	■	R	A	I	I
M	A	D	■	K	I	N	■	F	A	N	N	Y
A	L	A	E	■	N	O	S	E	S	■	■	■
C	A	Y	M	A	N	■	Q	U	E	B	E	C
■	■	■	R	A	Y	O	U	■	D	A	■	A
D	I	N	A	H	■	K	I	D	■	S	E	T
C	V	E	R	■	M	A	C	A	M	E	■	■
S	I	C	K	B	A	Y	■	R	O	P	E	S
E	E	K	■	A	L	E	■	I	R	A	S	H
S	S	S	■	R	E	D	■	S	T	Y	L	E

Friday's answer 1 - 25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alicia Keys, 35; Mia Kirshner, 41; Ana Ortiz, 45; Jenifer Lewis, 59.

Happy Birthday: Concentrate on getting ahead. Whether personally or professionally, you can turn your dreams into a reality. Don't waste time on anger or fretting over what others do or say. Focus on what counts most to you and give your all to make it happen. Change is favored, and an innovative approach to life will bring good results. Your numbers are 3, 11, 15, 22, 26, 31, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Roll with the punches and you will avoid being criticized. Discipline and personal changes will be your best bet if you want to make progress. Don't let someone's negativity deter you from taking care of your responsibilities. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): The information you gather will help you gain the respect of your peers. A business trip will encourage you to make use of your practical but innovative ideas. A little romance will improve your relationship with someone unique. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take more interest in your surroundings and what you can do to formulate ideas and follow through with your plans. Changes at home will make your life easier and can help your personal relationships operate more smoothly. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Talks will open up new opportunities. Someone close to you will provide you with the resources required to follow your dream. Romance is highlighted. Strive for greater stability and security at work. Get all promises made in writing. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Keep a close watch over your personal possessions. Make the changes that will enable you to use your attributes in a unique way. A gift or financial gain will also cause an emotional reaction. Be grateful and willing to share. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Love and romance look promising. Doing something different with someone you enjoy spending time with will bring about a positive change to your living arrangements. Take care of your responsibilities, but don't let someone's demands ruin your fun. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A good deed will not bring you the satisfaction you expect. Problems will arise if someone you are close to complains about how you spend your time. Take a moment to acknowledge the needs of close friends and relatives. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): An unusual situation at home will cause you emotional stress. Make adjustments quickly to avoid loss, disappointment or frustration. It's important to use a practical approach to get things done properly and avoid delays. Take care of someone you love. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Listen carefully and decipher how you can use the information you receive to improve your life, career or your current surroundings. An offer will sound much better than it turns out to be. Ask questions before you proceed. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Go over important documents and open a dialogue with someone who can inform you about proper procedure. You can bring about changes that will encourage you to reconnect with the people you have enjoyed working with in the past. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A partnership will experience some ups and down. Address issues directly, but don't get into an argument. Look for workable solutions that will give you both something in return. Use incentives to keep yourself and others motivated. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll face opposition and criticism if you let too many people know about your plans prematurely. Get everything in order and only discuss matters with those who are already on board. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are innovative, congenial and adaptable. You are progressive and disciplined.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6				1			7
7	5		9			2		
				7	2		5	
	7			1		9		6
		5	8	9	6	3		
6		3		4			1	
	3		1	5				
8		9	6		8		6	2
							9	

Difficulty Level ★ 1/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

6	7	5	8	9	2	4	3	1
2	3	1	6	4	5	7	8	9
9	4	8	7	3	1	6	5	2
5	6	2	4	1	9	3	7	8
3	1	9	5	7	8	2	6	4
4	8	7	3	2	6	9	1	5
7	2	3	1	8	4	5	9	6
8	5	4	9	6	7	1	2	3
1	9	6	2	5	3	8	4	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

USING THE INTERNET **Solution: 9 letters**

S	W	E	I	V	E	R	E	M	A	F	E	S	P	S
S	H	T	Y	M	N	E	W	S	I	D	G	E	O	G
N	S	O	F	A	I	W	M	C	U	O	R	C	P	N
O	E	A	W	P	L	O	T	C	L	S	I	O	U	I
I	C	S	B	S	N	I	A	B	O	A	O	N	P	N
T	R	G	U	E	O	T	R	N	L	H	R	N	S	R
S	U	N	Y	N	I	O	A	N	A	C	P	E	H	A
E	O	I	L	O	W	L	E	S	Y	R	U	C	O	W
G	S	T	N	S	S	T	H	T	C	A	K	T	S	E
G	A	A	E	H	W	T	I	Ⓗ	P	E	O	D	T	B
U	L	R	A	O	A	R	A	Ⓐ	A	S	O	E	O	S
S	E	R	R	G	U	T	W	Ⓒ	S	I	L	M	R	I
E	E	K	S	C	O	P	Y	Ⓚ	T	A	D	A	I	T
L	S	E	E	N	I	C	I	D	E	M	F	N	E	E
L	S	S	E	N	I	S	U	B	P	A	G	E	S	D

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Last Thursday's Answer: Chandelier

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Saipan Office Manager – Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc.

Join the MRE team and one of the fastest industries! Help enhance the industry one panel at a time. Excellent pay and benefits.
Email resumes to lozaki@micronesiarenewableenergy.com

Job Description
This position is responsible for successfully leading, managing and growing MRE's residential Sunnova program in Saipan and the CNMI. The Office Manager will demonstrate a combination of entrepreneurial spirit and strong leadership, and possess the ability to optimize processes and people to achieve maximum profitability and Sales quotas for Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc.

The ideal candidate will be experienced in handling a wide range of administrative and executive support related tasks and will be able to work independently with little or no supervision. This person must be exceedingly well organized, flexible and enjoy the administrative challenges of supporting an office of diverse people and positions.

Responsibilities
- Serve as the point person for maintenance, mailing, shopping, supplies, equipment, bills and errands
- Organize and schedule meetings and appointments
- Partner with HR to maintain office policies as necessary
- Organize office operations and procedures
- Coordinate with IT department on all office equipment
- Manage relationships with vendors, service providers, and landlord, ensuring that all items are invoiced and paid on time
- Manage contract and price negotiations with office vendors, service providers and office lease
- Manage office G&A budget, ensure accurate and timely reporting
- Provide general support to visitors

Requirements
- Proven office management, administrative or assistant experience
- Knowledge of office management systems and procedures
- Excellent time management skills and ability to multi-task and prioritize work
- Attention to detail and problem solving skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Strong organizational and planning skills
- Proficiency in MS Office

Mount Carmel School

Post Office Box 500006, Saipan, MP 96950, Tel: (670) 234-6184/235-1201, Fax No. (670) 235-4751, www.mountcarmelsaipan.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT for SCHOOL YEAR 2016-2017

Mount Carmel School, a private Catholic elementary and secondary school, is accepting applications for the following positions:

Position	Minimum Requirements	Closing Date
Elementary Classroom Teacher (2 positions)	Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in elementary education or related field.	February 14, 2016
Japanese Language Teacher (For Elementary, Middle and High School)	Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Japanese language or related field.	
STEM Teacher (Computer / Digital Arts & Mathematics)	Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in computer science or related field.	February 24, 2016
STEM Teacher (High School Science & Advanced Placement Science Courses)	Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in science or related field.	
Vice-Principal for Curriculum & Instruction	Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in education or related field.	

Interested applicants may obtain a detailed job description with qualification requirements and employment application forms at the Mount Carmel School Business Office, Monday through Friday, 8:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m. Required documents needed to complete an application package are: copy of degree, transcript, resume, police clearance (from jurisdiction of residence within the last three months), and FBI Clearance (only required after an offer for employment is made). Complete application packages may be submitted to Mount Carmel School, Attn: Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero, President. Mount Carmel School is an equal opportunity employer.

Celebrating 64 Years of Faith, Excellence and Success.

Fully Accredited by North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI)

TAGA *Sports* is now on issuu.com/tagasports!

Check out the latest issue and back issues of TAGA *Sports,* the CNMI's first and premier sports magazine, on issuu.com/tagasports!

To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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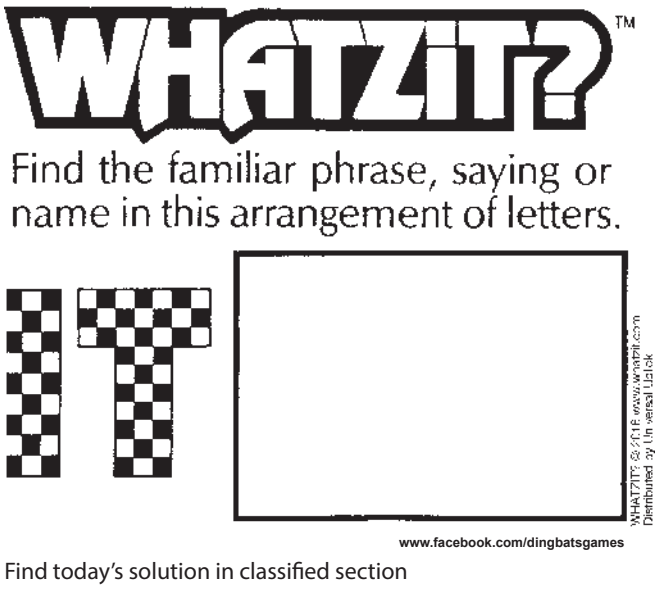
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find today's solution in classified section

Bulls spoil Lue's coaching debut, beat Cavaliers

CLEVELAND (AP)— They changed coaches. Everything else about the Cavaliers looked the same.

And as if they don't have enough problems, new coach Tyronn Lue said they're out of shape.

Lue didn't make much of a difference in his coaching debut for Cleveland as Pau Gasol scored 25 points, leading the Chicago Bulls to a 96-83 win over the Cavaliers on Saturday night.

Lue was promoted Friday, when the Cavaliers shockingly fired David Blatt despite him taking the team to the NBA Finals last season and currently leading the Eastern Conference. Lue admitted being nervous about sliding into Blatt's seat, and while his team gave effort, the Cavaliers didn't win.

In fact, LeBron James, Kevin Love, Kyrie Irving and their teammates left the floor to a chorus of boos after shooting just 9 of 22 from the free-throw line.

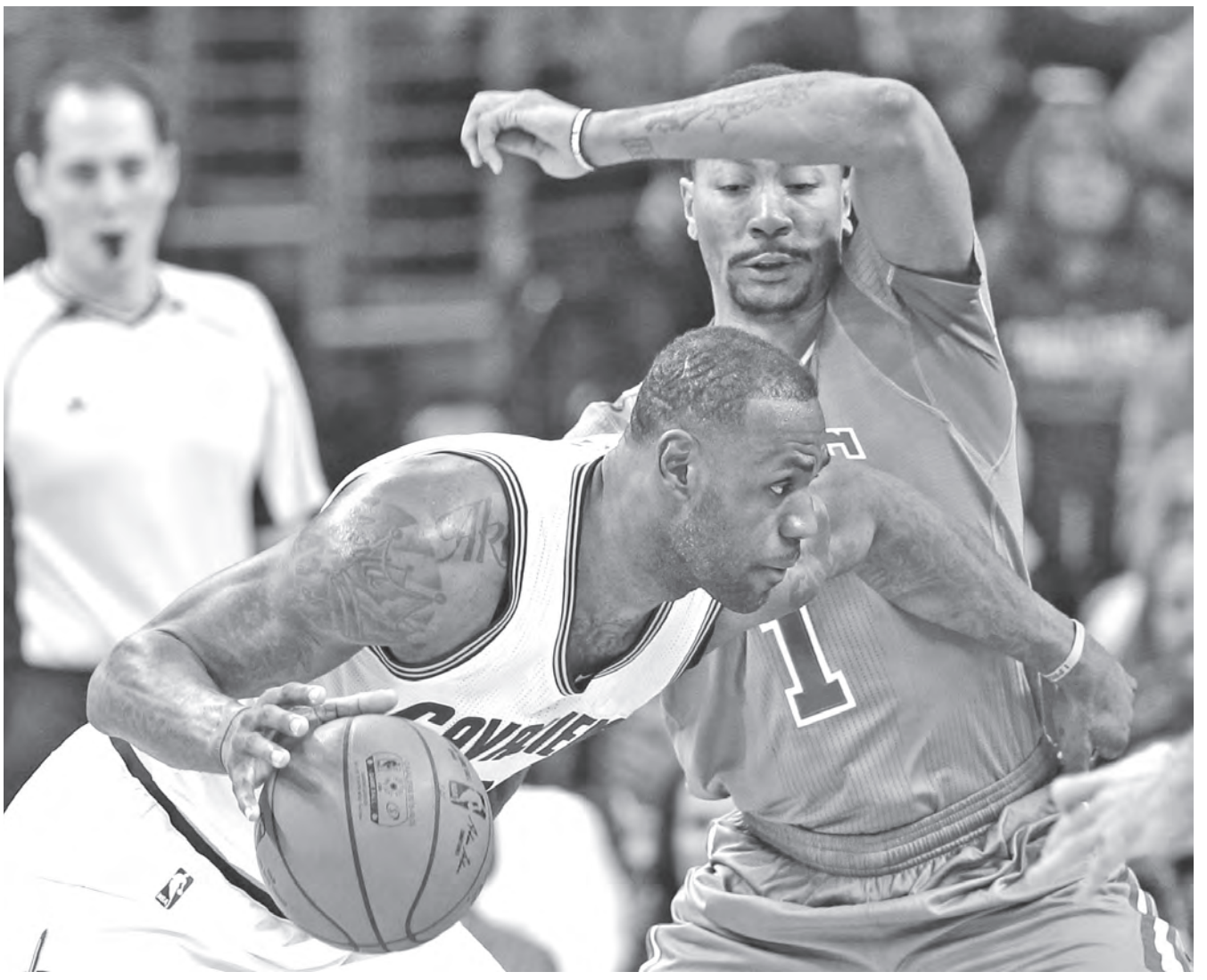
"I've been booed before, along with a lot of these guys," Lue said. "Every time I go to Philly I get booed, so, you know, that's not a big deal. It's something I got to deal with."

Lue wants his team to play at a faster pace than it did under Blatt, but the Cavs aren't physically ready to up the tempo.

"I don't think we're in good enough shape," Lue said. "Early, we wanted to push it, we wanted to open the floor and we came out and did that and then we just dropped off the map. We got tired. I just don't think we're in good enough shape right now to play in the style that we want to play."

James just missed his first triple-double this season, finishing with 26 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists. J.R. Smith added 18 points for the Cavs, who shot 37 percent from the field.

"It's a make or miss league and tonight we couldn't make any shots," James said.



AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) drives past Chicago Bulls' Derrick Rose (1) in the first half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016, in Cleveland.

Suns 98, Hawks 95

In Phoenix, Archie Goodwin hit a 3-pointer from atop the arc with 0.1 seconds left and Phoenix beat Atlanta to end a six-game losing streak.

Goodwin led the Suns with 24 points, and Phoenix won for the second time in 17 games.

Tyson Chandler tied a Suns record with 27 rebounds, including 17 in the first half, and also had 13 points and a season-high five assists.

Kent Bazemore led the Hawks with 21 points. Bazemore hit a tying 3-pointer with 47.4 seconds left, but Chandler's tip-in with 24.6 seconds remaining gave the Suns a 95-93 lead. Bazemore tied it again 5 seconds later, setting up Goodwin's 3.

Timberwolves 106, Grizzlies 101

In Minneapolis, Shabazz Muhammad scored 25 points and Minnesota snapped Memphis' four-game winning streak.

Ricky Rubio had 15 points, 12 assists and six rebounds and Andrew Wiggins scored 19 points for the Timberwolves, who beat a team with a winning record for the first time since Nov. 25. Minnesota improved to just 7-17 at home this season.

Mario Chalmers scored 19 points for the banged-up Grizzlies. Marc Gasol played through pain and finished with 17 points in 32 minutes. The Grizzlies had the ball down one with 35 seconds to play but were whistled for a 5-second call on the inbound.

Nuggets 104, Pistons 101

In Denver, Danilo Gallinari scored 30 points, including the go-ahead jumper with 23.8 seconds remaining, and Denver rallied to beat Detroit.

Emmanuel Mudiay added 18 points and Nikola Jokic 17 for the Nuggets, who won their sixth in a row against the Pistons in Denver.

Marcus Morris had 20 points to lead the Pistons, who have lost five of their last seven games. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope added 16 points and Aron Baynes had 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Hornets 97, Knicks 84

In Charlotte, Jeremy Lin and Kemba Walker scored 26 points each and Charlotte beat New York for its third win in the last four games.

Lin and Walker were a combined 19 of 19 from the free-throw line. Charlotte only shot 34 percent from the field but made 32 of 37 free throws as a team.

P.J. Hairston chipped in with a season-high 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Hornets, who beat the Knicks for the fifth straight time at home despite being without five players, including three starters.

Derrick Williams led the Knicks with 19 points and 14 rebounds, and Kristaps Porzingis had 13 points.

Pelicans 116, Bucks 99

In New Orleans, Ryan Anderson scored 23 points and tied a season-high with six 3-pointers, leading hot-shooting New Orleans to a win over Milwaukee.

New Orleans trailed 71-69 after Milwaukee's Khris Middleton scored 14 points in the first 9 minutes of the third quarter, but the Pelicans responded with a 31-14 run. Jrue Holiday, Toney Douglas, Tyreke Evans and Anderson all hit 3-pointers during that stretch, and Anderson's sixth 3 giving the Pelicans a 100-83 lead with 6:30 left.

Anthony Davis had 22 points, seven rebounds and five assists for New Orleans, which hit a season-best 17 of 31 3s. Holiday added 13 points and nine assists off the bench.

Trail Blazers 121, Lakers 103

In Portland, Damian Lillard had 36 points and the Trail Blazers beat the Los Angeles Lakers 121-103 on Saturday night for Kobe Bryant's last game in Portland.

CJ McCollum added 28 points and the Blazers led by as many as 27 points in the first half on the way to their eighth straight victory over the Lakers.

D'Angelo Russell came off the bench with 21 points for the Lakers, who dropped their sixth straight game. But all eyes were on Bryant, a Portland nemesis dating back to the 2000 Western Conference finals, who finished with 10 points.

It was the second of a back-to-back for the Lakers, who fell 108-95 to the San Antonio Spurs on Friday night.

SIDEBAR LeBron denies influence in Blatt firing

CLEVELAND—NBA superstar LeBron James has denied any involvement with the Cleveland Cavaliers' decision to fire coach Dave Blatt.

The Cavaliers dumped Blatt in favor of associate coach Tyronn Lue despite leading the Eastern Conference at 30-11.

Cavaliers general manager David Griffin said James, a four-time NBA Most Valuable Player, "doesn't run this organisation" and said watching Blatt interact with players made up his mind. "This was one choice I didn't need to ask anyone about," Griffin said. "I know what something that's not right looks like."

James said he wasn't bothered if people thought he influenced the decision. "That's not my concern," James said. "I found out about it just like every other player on this team at 3:30 yesterday."

James has played for three coaches during his two stints in Cleveland, making Lue the fourth Cavs coach to work with No. 23.

Unlike his predecessors, Lue is already on solid footing with James, who respects the 38-year-old former point guard.

Blatt, on the other hand, seemed doomed from the start.

It was no secret that James and Blatt weren't always in sync. Their relationship was analyzed from the moment James decided to leave Miami and return to Cleveland. Blatt was plucked from Europe last year by owner Dan Gilbert, who hoped James and Blatt would grow together when in fact they were a bad match from the outset.

James referred to his coach as simply "Blatt" during much of last season, and any interaction between the two seemed forced and insincere. During timeouts, James often spoke to Lue without making eye contact with Blatt.

There was the moment in Phoenix when James put his hands on Blatt and re-directed him off the floor. And, of course, James famously said he changed a play Blatt drew up during the closing seconds of a playoff game with Chicago before hitting a buzzer-beating jumper.

Blatt learned that coaching one of the planet's best players has its drawbacks.

"He had the most scrutinized job that you could possibly have," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "I think the reward for coaching LeBron is you get scrutinized. It really is, it's hard. They have a great record, the best in the East, and you get fired for it."

Shortly after Blatt's firing became known, Twitter and other the social media platforms buzzed with opinions about James' role in Cleveland's coaching shake-up.

Griffin was quick to defend James, saying any notion the 12-time All-Star pulled the strings was wrong.

"There's a lack of spirit and connectedness that I just couldn't accept," Griffin said. "And frankly, halfway through the season, I think we have the time to right the ship.

"I know that sounds crazy when we're sitting with a 30-11 record. I understand that. But we were 30-11 with a schedule that was reasonably easy. And I'm judging a lot more than wins and losses."

Blatt's firing stunned his coaching colleagues, including Dallas' Rick Carlisle, president of the National Basketball Coaches Association.

"I'm embarrassed for our league that something like this could happen," Carlisle said. "It's just bizarre. It just leaves you with a bit of an empty feeling. Because Blatt's a great guy and he did a great job there."

AFC finals features more than just Brady, Manning

DENVER (AP)—Tom Brady and Peyton Manning still earn top billing in Sunday's AFC championship between the New England Patriots and Denver Broncos.

It's just that their 17th meeting no longer features a pair of icons in their considerable prime. While Brady remains as good as ever, Manning is clearly in his twilight.

Abraded, he now relies as much on guile and grit. His left foot damaged, his right arm diminished, his shoulders no longer haul the hopes of a franchise and its fans.

Manning's mind is now his most dangerous asset as he tries to reach Super Bowl 50 two months shy of 40.

"Peyton's mind has always been at the forefront of this game. The difference in these two is Tom can threaten you down the field, whereas Father Time has taken that away from Peyton, that's all," Joe Theismann said. "That's the difference in these two guys."

That, and Brady has never won a playoff game in Denver.

Get this, though: Brady threw for three TD passes in Denver this season. Manning? Only one.

Brady led the league with three dozen touchdown throws and he passed for 4,770 yards despite seeing his receivers and running backs limp to the sideline seemingly as often as they spiked the ball in the end zone.

Manning threw just nine TD passes and 17 interceptions before missing seven starts with a torn plantar fascia near his left heel. His successful cameo against the Chargers secured the AFC's No. 1 seed, and he was both methodical and mistake-free in Denver's 23-17 win over Pittsburgh last week.

Brady and the Patriots tumbled through December after seeing their dreams of an unbeaten season end in the snow when C.J. Anderson's 48-yard run gave the Broncos a 30-24 overtime win on Nov. 29. But they looked championship caliber again in their 27-20 win last week over Kansas City.

While so much attention will be paid to Brady and Manning, this game could pivot on several other factors:

GRONK'S WONKS: Rob Gronkowski issued a good-natured but naughty retort on Twitter to Chris Harris Jr.'s tip that the only way to bring down the 6-foot-6, 265-pound tight end was to take out his knees. T.J. Ward said he'll go high or low, whatever it takes. Von Miller said, "I don't think it's ever been taught before how to tackle a guy who is 6-8, 300 pounds. It's never really been broken down. The thing that we have to do well is just get him on the ground."

DANGERFIELD DEFENSE: Denver led the league in several defensive categories: sacks, total yards, passing yards -- and gripes about not getting its due as one of the best defenses ever. But linebacker Brandon Marshall said the Broncos realize that to be considered elite like the `85 Bears or `00 Ravens, they'll have to do what those teams did: win it all. Sending Brady to his seventh loss in nine trips to Denver would give them that chance.

GAME GRINDERS: Two years ago when these teams met in the AFC championship in Denver, the Broncos featured the league's No. 1 offense, a record-breaking bunch that lit up scoreboards aplenty. This time, they sport the league's No. 1 defense. Accordingly, the Broncos' formula has been to minimize mistakes on offense and keep things close until their play-making defenders come through. Their 10 wins by seven points or fewer are tied with the 1978 Houston Oilers for most ever.

ESSENTIAL EDELMAN: The Broncos are the only team with a winning record against Brady, who is 2-6 at Denver, including 0-2 in the playoffs. Both of those losses came when the Patriots were undermanned offensively. Brady has never lost (4-0) to the Broncos with both Gronkowski and receiver Julian Edelman in the lineup. Edelman (foot) missed the Nov. 29 game in Denver, and Gronkowski was knocked out of that game in the fourth quarter with a knee injury.

RECEIVERS OR RETRIEVERS: After dropping seven passes in windy weather against Pittsburgh, Broncos wide receivers found themselves running the "gauntlet" drill, catching rapid-fire passes from their left and right, a staple of the NFL's scouting combine. Star Demaryius Thomas had a drop last week and five the last time these teams met. Fans are starting to bug him about it, too.

"I just say, `We'll fix it. We'll be fine," Thomas said.

AP

Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning, front, waits to throw as backup quarterback Brock Osweiler, back, tosses a football during an NFL football practice, Friday, Jan. 22, 2016, at the team's headquarters in Englewood, Colo. The Broncos will host the New England Patriots in the AFC Championship game Sunday in Denver.

Cespedes, Mets reach $75 million, 3-year deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Slugging outfielder Yoenis Cespedes is returning to the New York Mets. How long he stays, he'll decide.

A person familiar with the deal says the star free agent and the National League champions agreed Friday night to a three-year contract for $75 million.

The 30-year-old Cespedes can opt out of the contract after just one season and make it worth $27.5 million. Cespedes also got a full no-trade clause.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal was still pending a physical. Other media outlets reported the terms earlier.

Cespedes was traded from Detroit to New York last July 31 and became an instant hit in his new home. He launched 17 home runs in 57 games, powering the Mets to their first World Series appearance since 2000. Kansas City won in five games.

The Washington Nationals were also said to be interested in Cespedes, especially after they finished a disappointing second to the Mets in the NL East. The Nats previously signed free agent second baseman Daniel Murphy, who starred for the Mets in last year's playoffs.

Cespedes gives the Mets the power bat they needed in the middle of their lineup. With a rotation full of young aces, the Mets felt it was a must to get somebody to drive in runs.

Cespedes had 44 RBI for the Mets in his limited stint with them. He combined for 35 home runs and 105 RBI while batting .291 for the Tigers and Mets. He twice has won the All-Star Home Run Derby, including the 2013 crown at Citi Field.

Along with his hitting, he won an AL Gold Glove for his four months in the Detroit outfield last year. He split time in center field and left field for the Mets.

Cespedes has hit 106 homers in four seasons with Oakland, Boston, Detroit and the Mets and was an All-Star in 2014. The flashy Cuban seemed to fit in neatly inside the Mets clubhouse and had indicated he felt comfortable in New York.

If Cespedes left after one year, the $27.5 million would tie Alex Rodriguez for the second-richest average annual value of a contract by a position player. Miguel Cabrera's deal averages $29.2 million per year with Detroit.

As of now, the free agent class for outfielders next fall is far weaker than the deep field this year, with a steep drop-off after Jose Bautista.

SIDEBAR

NFC title game showcases 2 vet coaches, strong communicators

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—These guys know how to coach.

So why did it take so long for them to get their own teams

Between them, Bruce Arians and Ron Rivera have won the last three AP Coach of the Year awards, and they are front-runners for this year's honor. Arians' Cardinals (14-3) and Rivera's Panthers (16-1) meet Sunday for the NFC championship, with the winner making his first trip to the Super Bowl as a head coach.

Arians parlayed his work as interim coach of the Colts in 2012 when Chuck Pagano had leukemia into Coach of the Year recognition, then into the Arizona job. Rivera has guided Carolina to three consecutive NFC South titles, something no franchise had managed.

"Bruce has done a tremendous job there, just as he did in Indianapolis and anywhere he has been," says Tony Dungy, who knows a little bit about coaching winning teams. "And Ron, going from 3-8-1 last season, keeping his composure and staying with the plan and continuing to build the kind of team he wanted -- they never lost their focus. They never said they had better change the way they do things."

Arians' resume dates back to the 1980s at Alabama, where Bear Bryant still was in charge. His long and winding road took him to several other colleges, and he was the man at Temple from 1983-88. Arians had two winning records in six seasons with the Owls, then headed to the pros.

In his first stint with the Colts, Arians was quarterback coach from 1998-2000, working with Peyton Manning. His most noteworthy work before rejoining the team in 2012 as offensive coordinator came with the Steelers, who made three Super Bowls and won two in this century with Arians.

But his frank approach eventually helped lead to a strange departure from Pittsburgh, and Arians landed in Indy as OC. One year, one league coaching honor, and he got a top job. At last.

"Any time someone can gain that experience in doing things, it will help," says Dungy, who worked with Arians for three years in Kansas City. "Bruce had so much experience on a variety of staffs, at Temple he was a head coach where you hear people say they don't think he could win and he did a great job there.

Williams, Sharapova to meet in quarterfinals

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova have confirmed their quarterfinal date at the Australian Open, each advancing in straight sets on Sunday to ensure a rematch in Melbourne Park between last year's finalists.

Fifth-seeded Sharapova fired a career-high 21 aces and hit 58 winners in her 7-5, 7-5 win over Belinda Bencic in the first match of the day on Rod Laver Arena, converting her second match point with a successful challenge after her forehand was initially called long.

Six-time champion Williams followed it up with a 55-minute, 6-2, 6-1 win over Margarita Gasparyan.

Williams has won 18 of her 20 matches against Sharapova, including the last 17.

Asked if that gave her extra confidence, the 21-time major winner said it didn't matter who she was playing.

"I just feel like I'm really confident in my game right now, not against her or against any other opponent," in particular, Williams said. "I'm just really looking at me right now, and I feel like if I can just continue to play well, then it could be good."

Williams won 26 matches in a row at the majors last season, capturing the Australia, French and Wimbledon titles and reaching the semifinals at the U.S. Open before a stunning loss to Roberta Vinci ended her run for a calendar-year Grand Slam.

That's the driving factor here.

"For my whole career I have been motivated by losses. So that's just been my thing," she said. "So each time I take a loss, I feel like I get better."

AP

Maria Sharapova of Russia hits a forehand return to Belinda Bencic of Switzerland during their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 24, 2016.

Margaret Court, the Australian great who won 24 Grand Slam singles titles and has a court named in her honor at Melbourne Park, was in the crowd watching Williams.

Under bright sunshine after the roof was opened following morning rain, Williams was broken in the opening game - her only point coming from an ace - but quickly found her groove and won 12 of the next 14.

"Well, gosh, I didn't know she was here, I feel honored to be able to play in front of her," Williams said when told Court was in the stands, then looked up to the VIP area and added: "Thank you."

"Obviously 24 is close, but yet it's so far away," Williams said of Court's career record.

Williams was keeping an eye on an earlier match, too, noting that Sharapova "had a really good win today."

Sharapova won consecutive matches against Williams in 2004 at Wimbledon and the season-ending championships, but hasn't won since. It's a statistic she tries to block from her mind.

"It's not like I think about what I can do worse. You're always trying to improve," she said. "I got myself into the quarterfinal of a Grand Slam. There is no reason I shouldn't be looking to improve and to getting my game in a better position than any other previous round. It's only going to be tougher, especially against Serena.

Mafia shadows VFW Dart Vader

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The 6JMS Mafia II escaped with an 8-7 win over the Oleai Team Fearless to move within striking distance of Fanihi Thursday B Division leader VFW Dart Vader in the continuation of action in the Winter/Spring season of the Bud Light Saipan Electronic Darts Association last week.

The slim victory improved the Mafia's record to 61-29, three wins behind division leader VFW Dart Vader's 64-26 slate. Team Fearless dropped to 35-55 for sixth spot. The Doro's Life After Darts are also not far behind at 57-33 for third place, while 6JMS Ta-Chagi Talo is of distant fourth at 40-50.

Doro's Alamo Dragons (38-52), Jokers Preba Darts (34-56) and Jokers Parakeyu (31-59) complete the standings placing fifth, seventh and eighth.

Mafia II could have overtaken the Dart Vader for the top spot but they could not easily dispatch Team Fearless. They won three of the next five matches to break a 4-all count and move a win away from claiming the victory.

Aldebert Lizama and Joker Camacho delivered in the final Partners Half-It event, giving Mafia II the eighth win it needed.

Doro's Dragons also squeezed out an 8-7 win over Ta-Chagi Talo, while the Dart Vader trounced Preba Darts, 12-3, and the Life After Darts silenced Parakeyu, 11-4, in the other matches.

A Division

- Shockers 14, Hunters 3
- Snipers 14, No Fear 3
- Ridin'Darrty 10, 101 Proofers 7
- Sakude 9, Mafia 8

Tuesday B

- G-Side Shooters 11, Dabarkads 4
- Hot Points 11, Warriors 4
- Chamberos 9, 21 Shockers 6
- Northern Lights 9, Spartans 6

Masters

- Nakayoshi 13, Pythons 4
- Daddies 11, Darteros 6

C Division

- Jump It 15, Dart It 0
- Mixed Nuts 13, Dartcom 2
- C-Busters 10, Managaha Boyz 5
- Spartans 8, Puntan I Langit 7

Flame Tree

- Ridin'Darrty 11, Serial Killaz 4
- Latte Sparts 10, No Fear 5
- Na'Gupu 10, One Shot 5
- Em Tech 9, Kyodai 6

CNMI

From Page 28

Football Association in an elaborated ceremony last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Dr. Annathurai Ranganathan, AFC's head of Corporate School Responsibility Unit, led the donation turnover ceremony to NMIFA, which in return handed the balls to the various schools in the CNMI. Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan and the representatives of both the public and private schools in the Commonwealth were present at the ceremony to receive the donation.

The ball, which comes in different colors (the CNMI received the orange ones) is also called the One World Futbol, and according to its website, it never needs a pump and never goes flat. It has a maximum lifespan of eight years and can be used in any surface, even rocky ones. A Polaris UTV was even used to run into the ball and proved its durability during the turnover ceremony. The ball was flatted by the over 1,000lb vehicle for a few seconds before going back to its original form.

Incidentally, the OWPP was originally known as One World Futbol before the program adapted a new name late last year with Chevrolet as its main founding sponsor. The project started in 2010 and aimed at distributing 1.5 million balls to developing countries.

"With this donation, AFC is hoping to see more and more players get involved in the sport. AFC recognizes that there are children out there who would love to try the sport, but does not have the equipment to get started. AFC also recognizes that some parts of the world have no decent pitches. This ultra-durable balls will allow players, especially the young ones, to play anywhere at any time," said Ranganathan in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* last weekend.

Meanwhile, Tan said the donation is a big boost to the CNMI's football program, especially at the grassroots level.

"We are very thankful to AFC for their generosity. We are only an associate member of AFC, but they are very considerate in extending assistance to us. These balls are the best gifts to our kids," Tan said.

The NMIFA head also explained why they decided to turn over the donated balls to CNMI schools.

"A big majority of our players are students so this is the best way to maximize the donation and help grow the sport more in the CNMI," he added.

Sablan thanked NMIFA and AFC for donating the balls to the schools and said that PSS will continue to open its doors to football games and other NMIFA related activities. Youth league games are played in the various school pitches in the CNMI as the Oleai field is mostly for adult matches.

"We would like to express our gratitude to NMIFA and AFC for making it possible for our students/children to enjoy playing football. My two grandkids played football for the first time last year and I saw happiness and excitement on their faces when they were telling me what happened to their games," Sablan.

The number of balls donated was based on each school's population. Marianas High School and Hopwood Junior High School received the most with 40 each. Other recipients of the size 4 and 5 balls were Garapan Elementary School (30), Gregorio T. Camacho (20), Kagman (20), Koblerville (20), Oleai (25), San Vicente (30), William S. Reyes (30), Chacha Middle School (15), Dandan (20), Tanapag (20), Kagman High School (30), Saipan Southern (30), Sinapalo Elementary (10), Tinian Junior and Senior High (15), Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior and Senior High (10), Eucon International School (10), Grace Christian Academy (10), Mt. Carmel School (15), Saipan Community School (10), Saipan International School (10) and Whispering Palms (5).

TAN

From Page 28

the upper hand twice in the fourth, 70-69, and 73-72.

A short jumper from Nonato brought the lead back to Tan Holdings, 74-73, 2:25 left on the clock, and a layup from Esdrelon made it a 76-73 advantage, entering the final two minutes of the match.

Joeten sued for time, but failed to produce a basket. It then got another chance when Sid Quan picked Matt Duenas' pocket near midcourt and sprinted to their frontcourt, however the former missed the easy layup that could have cut the deficit to one. Earlier in the fourth, Quan, Dixon Kwon, and Alex Lauron muffed several point-blanked shots that could have changed Joeten's fortunes.

After Quan's sorry miss, Esdrelon was fouled on his way to the basket and had a split. Another Joeten missed on the other end returned possession to Tan Holdings and Nonato rose to the occasion with an and-1 basket off a spin move from the right baseline for their 80-73 lead, down to the last 42.7 seconds of the match.

Quan had a split and Lauron nailed back-to-back layups, hoping to anchor Joeten's final push, but Tan Holdings kept its safe distance as its finals foe decided to commit preemptive fouls to stop the clock. Esdrelon drilled those important free throws, going 5-for-6 in his last three trips from the stripe, while Jarett Matsutaro added one charity. Joeten also got its last 2 markers from the foul line off Ferdie Tobias' 2-for-3 performance from the charity lane to peg the final score.

Nonato top-scored in Tan Holdings' title-clinching win with his 25 points, while Esdrelon and Duenas contributed 23 and 21, respectively. Lauron had 24 for Joeten, while Kwon still finished with 22 despite being hounded all night by Tan Holdings defenders.

Duenas, who fouled out in the third quarter of their Game 2 loss, made his presence felt early in Game 3, scoring 9 points to lift Tan Holdings to a 22-19 lead after the first canto. Tan Holdings' advantage then ballooned to as much as 12 in the first half, 32-20, after Esdrelon's triple capped a 10-1 scoring run in the first five minutes of the second period.

However, Joeten battled back, moving within one at the break, 38-39, as it finished the last five minutes of the first half with an 18-6 spurt behind the combined 12 points of Kwon and Athan Taisague.

After slowing down late in the second quarter, Tan Holdings opened the third with a 19-2 run to established the biggest lead in Game 3. Duenas led the breakaway, firing 10 points, while Nonato added 7.

However, Joeten refused to give up and threatened Tan Holdings in the fourth quarter before running out of guns in the end.

Tan Holdings 86—Nonato 25, Esdrelon 23, Duenas 21, Matsutaro 9, Pablo 6, Rivera 2.

Joeten 80—Lauron 24, Kwon 22, Quan 12, Taisague 11, Sambile 4, Tobias 5, Benghit 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-19, 39-38, 62-53, 86-80.

One World Play Project

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NMIFA president Jerry Tan, right, receives the first ultra-durable soccer ball from Dr. Annathurai Ranganathan.

From left, Hopwood Junior High School principal Jonas Barcinas, Dr. Annathurai Ranganathan, Jerry Tan, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, and NMIFA vice president Vickie Izuka gather for a group photo during the donation turnover ceremony.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan addresses the players, NMIFA officials, and parents that attended the donation turnover ceremony.

Members of the CNMI women's and girls U14 training pool pose with Dr. Annathurai Ranganathan and Jerry Tan.

Whispering Palms' Jeff Race shakes hands with NMIFA president Jerry Tan after receiving the ceremonial donated ball.

Youth players test the ultra-durable ball during a short clinic.

Players from various clubs line up while waiting for the ceremony to start.

A Let's Go staff uses the UTV to test the durability of the donated soccer ball.

Bulls spoil Lue's coaching debut, beat Cavaliers

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

AFC finals features more than just Brady, Manning

PAGE 25

CNMI gets 500 ultra-durable soccer balls

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Asian Football Confederation through its One World Play Project turned over 500 ultra-durable soccer balls to Northern Mariana Islands

See CNMI on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Dr. Annathurai Ranganathan, AFC's head of Corporate School Responsibility Unit, sixth from back row, joins CNMI players, teachers, school officials, and NMIFA officers for a group photo after turning over the ultra-durable soccer balls, donated through One World Play Project, last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Tan Holdings outlasts Joeten in finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tan Holdings survived a scare from Joeten to win the title deciding Game 3, 86-80, of their championship showdown in the 2nd JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Friday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Tan Holdings squandered an 18-point lead in the third quarter and had to ride on the steady hands of Elmer Esdrelon from the foul line and R.J. Nonato's clutch baskets in the homestretch to finally wrap up the short series and endure a gallant stand from Joeten.

Esdrelon knocked in six free throws in the closing minutes of the fourth quarter, while Nonato hit two field goals with his first one dousing cold water to Joeten's fiery run and the second moving Tan Holdings closer to the Promised Land.

Joeten, who once stared a 40-58 deficit midway in the third canto, managed to grab

See TAN on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tan Holdings' Elmer Esdrelon unloads a shot against Joeten's Alex Lauron, left, and Sid Quan during the fourth quarter of Game 3 of their title series in the JP World caging last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Sun Palace takes first finals seat

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Sun Palace marches into the finals of the women's division of the 2015 Tan Holdings Christmas Basketball Tournament following a 46-40 semis win against Mt. Carmel School last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Irish Pagarao and Ira Palero teamed up in towing Sun Palace into the championship game after scoring 21 and 15 points, respectively. Palero, who was held to one field goal in the first half, tallied 10 in the second, including two triples with the last one helping Sun Palace gain more distance against the feisty Lady Knights.

Mt. Carmel threatened the undefeated and highly favored Sun Palace in the first half by taking a 20-17 advantage. The Lady Knights peppered Sun Palace with five triples in the opening 20 minutes of play to go on top with Karleen Reyes knocking in three and Tawny Manibusan and Jan Travilla converting one each.

Pagarao led Sun Palace in the first half, logging 6 points and she drilled the team's first three field goals in the second half to swing momentum to the first finalist. Pagarao went on to record 9 more markers, including Sun Palace's final 3 points to foil Mt. Carmel's bid for an upset.

The Lady Knights fell short in the end after Reyes failed to sustain her strong start, as she was held to 2 points in the second half. Travilla carried MCS on her shoulder, firing 8 points in the second half.

Meanwhile, Lob City and Panty Droppers fought for the second and last finals berth in the women's division and results of the other semis tiff last Saturday will be reported in *Saipan Tribune* later this week.

Meanwhile, in the boys U19 pairing, the Sonics and Rollers 2 squared off for the first finals ticket last weekend, while Rollers 1 and the Ol'Aces will duel for the other finals seat this Thursday.

Sun Palace 46—Pagarao 21, Palero 15, Race 4, Phan 4, Ito 2.

MCS 40—Reyes 14, Travilla 13, Manibusan 6, Taimanao 6, Cho 1.

Scoring by halves: 17-20, 46-40.